Monday
28th February, 1949

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

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OF THE

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Monday, 28th February, 1949.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Chairman (Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao) in the Chair.

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS

The following member made the Declaration under Rule 4:

Shri Pranlal Thakorlal Munshi (Baroda State).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

FIVE YEAR MILK PLAN

*715. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have proposed a five year Milk plan for all provinces?

(b) If so, what is the total production of milk envisaged under such a plan and has the plan been approved of by the provinces?

(c) If so, when is this plan likely to come into operation in each province?

(d) What is the total cost of the plan and how is the cost proposed to be met?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) 318 lakh maunds.

(c) The Provinces are considering this plan.

(d) The capital expenditure for giving effect to all the projects proposed in the Plan is estimated at Rs. 55 crores spread over a period of five years. A major portion of this expenditure will be in the form of investments by private individuals and bodies participating in the Plan, and the balance may have to be met by Provincial Governments in the form of loans and subsidies. The expenditure will have to be met from the Provincial revenues or from the Block grants for development placed at their disposal by the Government of India.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that to implement the scheme a large number of technicians will be required? If so, what is their number and what steps will be taken to see that these technicians are available?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: A very large number of technicians will be required and the provincial governments have been asked to take steps in that direction.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether under the plan there is a scheme for the colonisation of dislodged animals? What steps have been taken in that direction? What are these dislodged urban cattle meant for?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: These steps are intended to be implemented by the provincial governments. A very large scheme for dislodging cattle from the city area is now being put into operation in Bombay.

The cattle which are at present in or near the inhabited area are being removed to about twenty or thirty miles from the city and a large dairy farm is being put up there. All the milk will be brought from that area in trains to the city. Similar schemes are also under contemplation for other large cities.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: In view of the reply given by the Honourable Minister, what do the Government intend to do with regard to their imports of milk powder?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: This question does not directly arise. However, I might say that the army requires a certain quantity and specific quality of milk powder for which there are no arrangements in our own country for its manufacture and so we are helpless in this matter, because the Defence Department requires a certain quantity and quality of milk powder which is not available in India.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: From what I can understand from the reply of the Honourable Minister the plan is to produce more milk and not milk powder, I believe. May I know how they expect to add to the production of milk in the country? Are they going to import some animals from outside or do they expect that the same animals which happen to exist in the country today will produce more milk?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Both these things may be taken.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: I am anxious to know how within five years you can create so much extra milk in the country? Are you going to import extra animals from outside?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: This plan when it is examined will be found to relate to increasing the milk supplies in the towns and cities and this particular plan does not cover the rest of the population or the rest of the area.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it not a fact that the milk which will be supplied to the towns will deprive, to that extent, the villagers of their milk?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Part of the scheme relates to the importing of milk from the villages to the cities and another part of the scheme relates to the creation of new dairy farms from which the cities will receive their supplies.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: How do the Government expect to substitute the loss of milk to the villagers?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: By increasing the yield and quantity of milk through better breeds, better feed and other steps.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether there are any non-official organisations for producing milk and if so, whether Government is giving them any help in this matter?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There is a good number of private dairy farms. If any non-official organisation is in need of assistance the Government will give them all possible help.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH EMPLOYEES UNIONS

*716. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of Postal and Telegraph Employees' Unions registered and recognised by Government?

(b) Have any representations been received by Government for the recognition of newly-started Unions?

(c) Is the All India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union recognised by Government?

(d) Is there any other Union with a similar name recognised by Government?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister for Communications): (a) There are seventeen recognised unions out of which only three are registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the policy of the Government regarding the recognition of these unions? Are they automatically recognised as unions under the Trade Unions Act?

Shri Khurshed Lal: No. As there are a number of trade unions in the department overlapping we are now trying to have the unions reorganised on a rational basis so that they can be recognised.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether out of the seventeen recognised unions there is one by name Extra-departmental Officials of the Postal Department which has also been recognised?

Shri Khurshed Lal: No, Sir.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Have the Government received any final reply from various unions in regard to their scheme of reorganisation, for which they were required to reply by the 31st January, 1949?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The report has been received and is under examination.

UNAUTHORISED SALE OF R. A. F. AIRCRAFTS BY CAPTAIN F. H. ROWAN

*717. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the answer given to my starred question No. 322 asked on 19th August 1948 regarding the unauthorised sale of two R.A.F. aircrafts by Captain F. H. Rowan and state the date on which it was detected that Captain F. H. Rowan an Aeronautical Inspector in the Civil Aviation Directorate, had cheated Government?

(b) What was the price at which he got the two Proctor Aeroplanes belonging to the R.A.F. condemned as scrap?

(c) What was the actual amount credited to Government treasury by this transaction and what was the original value of these planes?

(d) Has the extradition warrant against Captain Rowan been executed and if not, why not?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister for Communications): (a) The information was first received by Government in September, 1946.

(b) Rs. 287-8-0.

(c) The amount actually credited to Government treasury was Rs. 287-8. The original value of the two aircrafts was Rs. 1 lakh approximately.

(d) Completion of certain formalities in connection with the extradition proceedings taken against Captain Rowan is still pending and necessary action is being taken in the matter.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact that in reply to my question on the 19th August last the Minister stated that the competent court has been moved for the issue of extradition warrants against Captain Rowan? May I know since then what steps have actually been taken to see whether this warrant has been executed?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I may inform my honourable friend that so far as one accused in this case is concerned the case against him is pending in a court at

Kaupur. So far as Captain Rowan is concerned we have not yet been able to lay our hands on him but the External Affairs Ministry is taking action to ascertain his whereabouts and secure him.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Has the External Affairs Ministry been able to inquire as to his whereabouts and what is the latest position in this matter?

Shri Khurshed Lal: They have not been yet able to trace him.

SCHEME FOR MAKING INDIA SELF-SUFFICIENT IN RUBBER PRODUCTS

*718. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the total production and consumption of rubber products in India?

(b) What quantities of rubber products are still imported from foreign countries?

(c) Is it a fact that the Indian Rubber Board contemplate preparation of a Rs. 15 crore scheme for making India self-sufficient in rubber products?

(d) Who are the promoters and directors of this Board and have Government given them any aid and if so, to what extent?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) A statement showing the total production in India of rubber products during 1948 is laid on the table of the House. About 75 per cent. of the indigenous production is consumed in the country.

(b) Mainly tyres and tubes to the value of about Rs 12 lakhs are being imported from abroad.

(c) The Chairman of the Board at the Board's meeting held on 24th November, 1948 stated that a 15 crore scheme would have to be planned to make India self-sufficient in raw rubber. A Sub-Committee of the Board has been appointed to examine the subject.

(d) The Indian Rubber Board has been constituted under section 4 of the Rubber (Production and Marketing) Act, 1947 (XXIV of 1947). It consists of 23 members of which 10 represent rubber growers, 8 rubber manufacturers, 1 rubber dealers and the rest the Central Government and the Governments of Madras, Travancore and Cochin. Government have not given any financial aid to this Board so far. The Board is financed through a Cess levied on raw rubber produced in the country.

STATEMENT

S.No	Item	Production figures of Misc. Rubber Goods manufactured in India 1948	
1	Moulded goods	1044482	lbs.
2	Hoses	1661615	ft.
3	Cab Tyres	361124	ft.
4	Dipped goods	408202	Gross
5	Proofed Fabrics	7157	Yds.
6	Textile Rollers	24	Yds.
7	Printing Rollers	92	Nos.
8	Sundry extended articles	16632	Yds.
9	Footwear	18702162	Pairs
10	Repai material	605	lbs.
11	Gloves	13163	lbs.
12	Motor and Cycle Pumps Connections	78010	ft.
13	Balloon Tyres	40590	lbs.

1	2	3	
14	Hools	457460	Pairs
15	Soles		
16	Elastic Thread	5382	lbs.
17	Cycle Valve Tubes	14414	gross
18	Pram Tyres	53749	Nos.
19	V. Belts	80867	pieces
20	Foot Ball Bladders	1020	Dozen
21	Play Balls	43360	Dozen
22	Rills	6752	pieces
23	Air Cushions	510	Nos.
24	Air pillows	3216	Nos.
25	Grips	8823	pairs
26	Pedals	16486	Gross
27	Battery Covers	8267	Nos.
28	Rubber Tubing	45054	lbs.
29	Hard Rubber Duct	78084	lbs.
30	I.R Tubing	107256	ft.
31	Ebonite Rods	39234	lbs.
32	Rubber Rods	2260	lbs.
33	Rubber Cord	2465	lbs.
34	Cables	18884637	yds.
35	Rubber Matting	55400	Sq. ft.
36	I.R. Sheet	173272	lbs.
37	Trolly Tyres	2149	Nos.
38	Repair compound	42842	lbs.
39	Repair Fabrics	7080	lbs.
40	Camel Back	214168	lbs.
41	Rubber Solution	9498	lbs.
42	Erasers	153525	lbs.
43	Train Lighting Belting	2158181	ft.
44	Rubber Canvas Belting	288494	ft.
45	Rubberised Hose pipe	315631	inch.
46	Ice Bags	3150	Dozen
47	I.R. Stoppers	18495	lbs.
48	Dipped Goods (Toy balloons nipples, valves, test, etc)	1971600	Gross
49	Rubber Balls	405708	Nos.
50	*Tyres and Tubes*—		
	*(a) Giant and Aero Tyres	562152	Nos.
	(b) Giant and Aero Tubes	470531	Nos.
51	(a) Motor Tyres	301632	Nos.
	(b) Motor Tubes	351167	Nos.
52	(a) Bicycle Tyres	3736873	Nos.
	(b) Bicycle Tubes	4759457	Nos.

*The figures given above are 9 months actuals and 3 months estimates.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: Is there any financial aid given by the Government to any of these concerns in the rubber industry?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No. Sir.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the price of rubber is controlled by the Government and if so whether they intend to continue the control of prices?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The price of Indian rubber is fixed by Government on the recommendation of the Board. It is now Rs. 90-8-0 per lb.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the annual revenue from the rubber cess?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is about Rs. 1,85,000.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Is the restriction placed on further cultivation of rubber still continuing?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There are no restrictions now, so far as my information goes.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF RAILWAY RE-ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

*719. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Government of India have accepted wholly or partially the recommendations of the Railway Reorganisation Committee and if so, whether any steps have been taken so far to implement all or any of them?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The honourable member is presumably referring to the report of the Indian Railwny Enquiry Committee. The recommendations of that Committee are now under consideration of Government.

Shri B. Das: Will Government allow a day for discussion of the Railway Enquiry Committee Report after the same is published and circulated to the Members of the House?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I shall certainly consider the feasibility of getting a day allotted for the discussion of this Report, after consulting the Leader of the House. I expect copies of the Report will be available very soon.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know the date on which the Report was submitted to the Government and the time for which it has been under consideration of Government?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The Report was signed, I think, on the 6th of November. Cyclostyled copies of the Report were received about the 26th of November.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: May I know when the Government is likely to finish the consideration of this Report?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: As a matter of fact a number of recommendations have already been considered. Others have been remitted to railway administrations either for disposal or for remarks. That is why I said the Report was actively under consideration.

PRICES OF SALT

*720. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the actual rates of salt prevailing in the various Provinces and Unions of States during the years 1947-48 and 1948-49?

(b) Are Government aware that in several Provinces during the last twelve months, the price of salt has risen very high and salt has been sold at the rate of Re. 1/- to Rs. 3/- per seer?

(c) If so, what are the reasons which lead to such high prices and what are the measures adopted by Government to bring down the prices and the results achieved?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) A statement showing the prices of salt prevailing in the various provinces during the years 1947-48 and 1948-49 and in some of the important Unions of States during the year 1948-49 is placed on the table of the House. No authoritative information regarding prices of salt in the Unions of States during 1947-48 is readily available.

(b) No such complaints from any authoritative source have come to Government.

(c) The reply to first part of the question does not arise in view of the reply to part (b). Government nevertheless, consider that the prevailing prices in several areas admit of reduction. Constant watch is being kept over

stocks and prices of salt in different parts of the country. Institution of statutory control over prices in some provinces has somewhat improved the situation. A zonal scheme of distribution has, moreover, recently been put into operation to ensure regular supply and to stabilise the prices to a reasonable level in all parts of the country. Production in 1948 has been about 20 per cent. above that of 1947 and sufficient imports are being allowed to make up the overall deficit.

STATEMENT

Price of salt during 1947-48 and 1948-49 in the various Provinces and during 1948-49 in the Union of States.

S.No.	Name of Province	Name of place	Wholesale price per maund during 1947-48	Wholesale price per maund during 1948-49	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	East Punjab	Ambala	Rs. 2 6 0 to 7 0 0	Rs. 2 12 0	Prices rose to Rs. 7/- during 3rd qr. of 1947 due to disturbances following partition of the country.
2	United Provinces	Kanpur	2 6 0 to 3 4 0	2 6 0	
3	Bihar	Patna	3 8 0 to 6 0 0	4 0 0 to 4 8 0	High price due to transport difficulty during 3rd qr. of 1947.
4	West Bengal	Calcutta	3 4 0 to 4 8 0	2 18 0 to 3 15 0	
5	Assam	Gauhati	4 12 0 to 7 4 0	5 8 0 to 6 8 9	High price due to transport difficulty. Higher price due to low production during 1946.
6	Orissa	Cuttack	2 0 0 to 3 15 0	3 4 0 to 5 10	
7	Central Provinces	Nagpur	3 0 0 to 6 8 0	3 12 0 to 4 0 0	
8	Bombay	Kolaba	4 6 0 to 5 0 0	3 0 0 to 3 10 0	
9	Madras	Madras	1 11 0 to 2 3 0	1 6 0 to 1 12 0	
10	Delhi	Delhi	1 12 0 to 2 8 0	1 14 0 to 2 2 0	
11	Ajmer Merwara		1 9 6 to 1 13 0	1 10 0 to 1 13 0	
Unions of States.					
1	Madhya Bharat Union	Indore		3 12 0	Low price due to nearness to salt factory.
2	Matsya Union	Karauli		2 7 0	
3	Saurashtra Union	Lavanpur (Morvi)		0 6 0	
4	Vindhya Pradesh	Datia		2 6 9	
5	Patiala & East Punjab States Union	Nabha		2 8 0	
6	Rajasthan Union	Kotah		2 2 0	

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Honourable Minister aware of blackmarketing in salt as well?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am not aware, Sir.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: What is the percentage of salt imported during last year?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: In 1947, 100 lakhs maunds of salt were imported; in 1948, 87 lakhs maunds of salt were imported. In 1947 India produced 513 lakhs maunds of salt; in 1948, 635 lakhs maunds.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are any attempts being made to promote the manufacture of rock salt?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Rock salt is not available in India. We have been told that in Himachal Pradesh there is a certain place where it is available but that it is of an inferior type. That matter is under investigation.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Is there any scheme before Government for making India self-sufficient in salt and if so in how many years?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I answered it last time. In 1951 we expect we will be self-sufficient.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: How does the price of imported salt stand in comparison with that of salt produced in India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The prices were somewhat higher. But at that time the import was allowed only from Aden. We have now allowed salt to be imported to India from other soft currency areas as well and prices are now going down.

MONOPOLY IN SALT TRADE

*721. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what margin of profit the monopolists for the import of salt into provinces from Sambhar Lake are authorised to charge?

(b) Do Government propose to revise their policy and put an end to the system of monopoly and allow free trade in this essential commodity.

(c) What persons or associations have been recognised by Government in Sambhar as competent to deal in the manufacture, storage and export of salt?

(d) Who are they, on what basis are they recognised and what is the margin of profit that such associations and individual traders are allowed.

(e) Is it a fact that a nominee of Rajasthan has been recently permitted to import salt direct from Sambhar?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Detailed information on margins of profit allowed to licensed wholesale traders nominated by district Magistrates in the provinces has not yet been received from the Provincial Governments. It is understood, however, that usually on an average a profit of 5 per cent. over the cost price is being allowed to the Provincial Governments' nominees, who also act as whole-salers.

(b) On the basis of past experience and until the transport position definitely improves, Government do not consider that the revision of this policy of licensing nominees will benefit the consumer. It may cause glut in some areas and scarcity in others.

(c) and (d). Salt manufacture at Samhhar is the monopoly of Government. The manufactured salt is removed and stored through a Departmental transport agency. As regards the despatch of salt, the bulk is distributed through a few Salt Companies of Sambhar approved by the Central Government, who work on a commission basis. A statement showing the names and details of these Companies is laid on the table of the House. The general principles followed regarding the recognition of traders are as follows. They should be

bona fide salt traders at the Sambhar Sources for several years or have been actively engaged in salt despatches from Sambhar making their living mainly from this work. Such traders have to form themselves into Associations to be recognised by Government. *Bona fide* refugee Salt traders who, previous to the partition of the country, were engaged in the salt trade at the sources in the West Punjab or Sind and have now settled at Sambhar and formed into similar Associations have also been recognised for the distribution work at Sambhar. These Associations are allowed to charge one anna per maund as commission, which works up to about 5 per cent. of the cost price *plus* the price of bag, which are advanced by these distributing agents on behalf of the district nominees.

(c) Yes.

STATEMENT

Names of Registered Salt Associations at Sambhar Lake

1. The Salt Merchants Association, Ltd, Sambhar Lake 2. Shree Shakambar Salt Merchants, Association Ltd. Sambhar Lake 3. The Shakambar Salt Traders, Ltd., Sambhar Lake 4. The Chamber of Sambhar Traders, Ltd., Sambhar Lake	These are associations of salt traders at Sambhar sources who indented for salt from Sambhar in the years prior to 1941.
5. Messrs. Bharat Salt Syndicate, Sambhar Lake 6. Messrs. National Salt Trading Company, Sambhar Lake. 7. The Warcha Registered Salt Traders Association Ltd., Sambhar Lake.	These are Khewra Salt dealers who have been evacuated from West Punjab and have now been rehabilitated in Sambhar. The areas they used to supply are now fed from Sambhar.
8. The Kalabagh Salt Trading Association Ltd, Sambhar Lake	
9. The Sindhi Salt Traders, Association Ltd, Sambhar Lake.	These are refugees from Sind and have been rehabilitated in Sambhar.
10. The Salt Suppliers Syndicate Ltd., Sambhar Lake.	These are residents of Sambhar, who make their livelihood out of salt by negotiating sales and arranging Loading and despatches.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Is it a fact that the zonal scheme has resulted in accumulation of large stocks of salt in Sambhar?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No; the zonal scheme is working satisfactorily.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: What is the present stock of salt in Sambhar?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am afraid I have not got the figure; but the zonal scheme has certainly helped us to make salt reach the different Provinces more speedily than it used to before.

Shri Sita Ram S. Jajoo: Was any enquiry ever conducted against the salt companies in Sambhar for black-marketing or resorting to any other malpractice?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Since complaints have been received we have modified the arrangement and these companies are not allowed to sell to anybody they choose but they have got to sell only to nominees of Provincial and State Governments.

Shri Sita Ram S. Jajoo: I want to know whether any enquiry was conducted?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There was no enquiry as such, but we found that the system was not working satisfactorily and we have now changed the system.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: Is it a fact that the Association of the Sambhar salt traders made a representation to the India Government that they can sell salt at one anna per seer in any part of the Indian Union, if they are given adequate scope by the Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have reduced their margin of profit. Of course they have made several complaints but we are not prepared to re-examine the matter now.

Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha: May I know what is the total output of salt in the Sambhar Lake area?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Government factories produce about one-third of the total quantity produced in India.

Shri Sita Ram S. Jajoo: In view of the fact that salt is a very essential commodity for human consumption do Government propose to further reduce the margin of profit?

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. It is a suggestion.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether any co-operative society has been entrusted with the work of distributing this salt?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The question of distribution is left in the hands of the Provinces.

LAND RECLAMATION AND SOIL CONSERVATION

†**722. Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what are the decisions taken at the recent conference of the Central, Provincial and State representatives on the question of land reclamation and soil conservation?

(b) What are the plans to implement the decisions reached at the Conference?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). Honourable member may kindly refer to the reply given to Question No. 605 put by the honourable member Pandit Mukat Bihari Lal Bhargava on the 23rd February, 1949.

SPECIALISED CROP SEEDS

†**723. Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what are the various varieties of crop seeds specialised in the Indian Agricultural Researeh Institute?

(b) Have these varieties so far been tried anywhere by agriculturists on a large scale?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to popularise the use of such specialised seeds on a large scale?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) A list of the important varieties of different crop plants evolved at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute is laid on the table.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Institute multiplies the seeds on a small scale in its own farms for distribution to the Departments of Agriculture of Provinces and States who, in turn, multiply them on a large scale for supply to cultivators. Government have asked the Provinces and States to intensify efforts to cover maximum area under cereals with improved seeds. Recently officers were sent round to several Provinces and States to discuss details for this purpose. Some Provinces have planned to cover substantial areas under principal foodgrain of the Province with improved seed within five years.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

STATEMENT

LIST OF N. P. SEEDS UNDER DISTRIBUTION

Cereals

1. *Wheat.*—N.P. 4, 12, 52, 80-5, 101, 111, 114, 120, 121, 125, 165, and 201.

A number of newly evolved wheat strains are now undergoing yield trials in some of the Provinces and States.

2. *Oats.*—N.P. 1, 2, Hybrid 1, 2, 3 and X-27.

3. *Barley.*—N.P. 13 and 21.

Pulses

4. *Gram.*—N.P. 2, 6, 17, 25, 28, 53, and 58.

5. *Peas*—N.P. 3, 8, 15, 16, 17, and 29.

6. *Mung.*—N.P. 18, 23, 28, 31, 25, and 36.

7. *Urad.*—N.P. 4, 6, 7, and 14.

8. *Lentil.*—N.P. 11, 47 and Hybrid I.

9. *Arhar.*—N.P. 15, 16, 24, 51, 64, 69, and 80.

A number of wilt resistant strains have been evolved and will soon be tested for their field performance.

Sugar Plants

10. *Sugarcane.*—A number of varieties are under distribution, the most important being Co. 285, 312, 313, 331, 413, 419, 421, 453, and 527.

Oil Seeds

11. *Linseed.*—N.P. 12, 121, 124, Hybrid 10, 55, and 68.

A number of rust resistant strains are being tested in the different linseed growing tracts. Work on breeding dual purpose strains—seed and fibre—is also in program.

12. *Safflower.*—N.P. 30.

Fibre Crops

13. *Hibiscus.*—N.P. 3, 6 and Sabdariffa 5.*

Spices

14. *Chilli.*—N.P. 34, 41, 46A, and 51.

Narcotics

15. *Tobacco.*—N.P. 18, 28, 58, 63, Hybrid 142, 147, Harrison's special, Adcock, Gold Dollar, Bonanza Amerelo 5.

* Possibility of this as a substitute for jute is being investigated.

REQUIREMENTS AND PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS

*724. **Shri Upendranath Barman:**
Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:

Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total area under (i) Wheat, (ii) Rice; and (iii) Millets during the years 1945-46 to 1947-48;

(b) the average production of each of the above cereals during these years;

(c) the deficit between production and requirement for food explaining the basis of calculation;

(d) the total quantity by which actual ration falls short of 12 ounces per capita; and

(e) the names of surplus and deficit Provinces of the Indian Union?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) to (c). Statements showing the required information are placed on the table of the House.

(d) The actual ration did not fall short of 12 ozs. per capita in any of these years.

(e) Normally Assam, Coorg, Orissa and C. P. and Berar are surplus provinces; other provinces have been receiving help from the Centre.

STATEMENT I

Area under cereals in the Indian Union (including Hyderabad) from 1945-46 to 1947-48 (reporting areas only)

('000 acres)

Cereals	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	Average (2) (3) and (4).
1	2	3	4	5
Wheat	24,546	24,348	20,209	23,034
Rice	58,112	60,987	59,656	59,585
Millets (a)	66,584	64,460	60,399	63,815
Total	149,242	149,795	140,264	146,434
Barley	6,247	7,082	7,127	6,819
Maize	7,786	7,888	7,755	7,809
Gram	15,177	16,971	18,498	16,882
Grand Total	178,451	181,736	173,644	177,944

(a) Includes *jowar*, *Bajra* and Ragi only

STATEMENT II

Production of Foodgrains in the Indian Union (including Hyderabad) during 1945-46 to 1947-48

('000 tons)

Foodgrains	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	Average of (2), (3) & (4)
1	2	3	4	5
Reporting Areas.				
Wheat	5,912	4,744	5,348	5,335
Rice	18,487	18,956	18,760	19,034
Millets*	9,428	9,420	9,646	9,498
Total (Rice, wheat & Millets)	33,827	34,020	33,754	33,867
Barley	1,958	2,414	2,488	2,287
Maize	2,052	2,035	2,111	2,066
Gram	3,138	3,599	4,310	3,682
Total (for reporting areas)	40,975	42,068	42,663	41,902

	2	3	4	5
Non-Reporting Areas Estimated total†	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Grand Total (Indian Union)	45,975	47,068	47,663	46,902

*Includes *Jowar, Bajra* and Ragi only.

†This figures of 5 million tons represents the conventional estimates which is at present being used.

STATEMENT III

Deficits of cereals in the Indian Union (including Hyderabad and Kashmir) during 1945-46 *to* 1947-48

1	1945-46 2	1946-47 3	1947-48 4
(1) Estimated population ('000)	339,085	343,047	347,002
(2) Adult Equivalent ('000)	291,613	295,020	298,422
(3) Requirements ('000 Tons)	43,953	44,467	45,103
(4) Production ('000 tons)	45,975	47,668	47,663
(5) Net Availability ('000 tons)	40,228	41,185	41,705
(6) Deficit ('000 tons) (3)—(4)	3,725	3,282	3,398

NOTES.—

1. The population has been estimated from the 1931 and 1941 census figures on the assumption of a constant annual increase equal to the average annual increase observed in the decade 1931-1941.

2. Adult equivalents have been calculated at 86 % of the total population.

3. Requirements have been calculated on the basis of daily consumption of 1 lb. per adult for farm population (70% of entire population) and 12 oz. per adult for non-farm population (30% of entire population).

4. Production figures have been taken from Statement II.

5. 87½% of gross production has been assumed to be the net quantity available for human consumptions 12½% being allowed for seed requirements and wastage etc.

6. The production during the crop year 1945-46, after allowing for seed, wast age, etc. is assumed to be available for consumption during 1946 and so on.

MEASURES TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION

*725. { **Shri Upendranath Barman:**
Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:

Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government are taking for increasing food production during the years 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51:

(b) how much new land is proposed to be brought under cultivation and their distribution province by province; and

(c) the expected production from each province from new lands—explaining the basis for such estimates?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The honourable member may kindly refer to the reply given to part (b) of question No. 176 on the 7th February, 1949.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the required information in regard to the existing schemes is placed on the table of the House. This scheme is under further examination with a view to accelerating production.

STATEMENT

Province-wise and year-wise the acreage of new land proposed to be brought under cultivation by Provincial Governments during 1948-1949, 1949-50 and 1950-51 the anticipated additional yield of foodgrains therefrom and the basis of such estimates.

Sl. No.	Name of the Province	1948—49 Acreage	1948—49 Anticipated additional yield	1949—50 Acreage	1949—50 Anticipated additional yield	1950—51 Acreage	1950—51 Anticipated additional yield	1948—49 to 1950—51 Total Acreage	1948—49 to 1950—51 Total Anticipated yield	Basis for estimates of production per acre
			Tons		Tons		Tons		Tons	
1	Bombay	392	150	804	322	804	322	2,000	800	2/5 tons.
2	West Bengal	2,000	1,000	9,000	4,500	27,000	13,500	338,000	19,000	1/2 tons
3	Coorg	687	481	464	326	485	339	1,636	1,145	7/10 tons.
4	U.P.	32,000	11,200	64,000	23,200	82,000	29,800	178,000	64,200	2/5 tons for cultivation of reclaimed areas and 1/5 ton from newly reclaimed Kans Land.
5	C.P. and Berar	2,00,000	28,743	2,34,280	35,001	2,31,280	35,001	6,62,560	98,746	1/5 tons for mechanically reclaimed areas and 1/7 tons for area to be reclaimed by cultivators.
6	East Punjab	3,000	643	1,07,000	22,928	1,00,000	21,428	2,10,000	44,999	6/28 tons.
7	Orissa	24,911	4,270	23,928	4,273	83,239	14,864	1,32,078	23,407	1st Crop year 5/28 tons 2nd Crop year 7/28 tons 3rd Crop year 9/28 tons Subsequent Crop year 3/7 tons, 6/28 tons from land to be reclaimed by E.I. Projects.
8	Assam	13,500	4,334	49,500	15,911	49,500	15,911	1,12,500	36,161	9/28 tons
9	Bihar	30,000	16,071	50,000	26,786	1,00,000	53,571	1,80,000	96,428	15/28 tons
10	Madras	43,000	7,679	1,00,000	22,321	2,00,000	44,643	343,000	74,643	5/28 tons for 1st year; 26/112 tons during succeeding years.
	Total	3,49,490	74,582	6,35,976	1,55,567	8,74,308	2,29,379	18,59,774	4,59,528	

NOTE.—The yield per acre varies according to soil and climatic conditions in each Province. The above estimates have been framed by the Provinces in the light of their local experience. The all India average for new land is calculated at 1/3 ton per acre.

CULTIVATION OF FINER VARIETIES OF COTTON

*726. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the progress made in the cultivation of finer varieties of cotton in India?

(b) When is India expected to be self-sufficient in the finer varieties of cotton?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The production of long and medium staple varieties of cotton in the Indian Union increased from 17·5 lakh bales in 1946-47 to 21·6 lakh bales in 1947-48. The production of cotton of all staples in these two years increased from 25·0 lakh bales and 31·9 lakh bales respectively. Comparable figures for 1948-49 are not yet available.

(b) Plans are being considered to make India self-sufficient in three years in regard to a part of long staple cotton and in five years in regard to medium staple cotton. With a regard to African cotton, the plans may take a little longer time.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Was there any Egyptian cotton imported last year, and if so what is its quantity?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: So far as imports are concerned, I have no information; that question will have to be put to the Commerce Ministry

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Have any experiments been carried out in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in regard to cotton, and if so are they put into practice?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, they are being put into practice in a large number of Provinces.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Minister aware whether there is any demand for short staple cotton from outside from America, for instance?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I could not say. That would be for the Commerce Ministry to reply whether and from where there is demand for short staple cotton.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: What percentage of local demands in India is met by local produce and what percentage is met by imports?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I could not give the figures straight off. But I understand that with regard to local production last year it was about 23 lakh bales as against 28 lakhs expected.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: What is the total consumption in the country?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: About 40 lakh bales. This aspect of the question does not relate to my Ministry.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Has any research been made to grow cotton of different colours?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Some research is being carried on in the Delhi Institute with regard to the Russian varieties of cotton which, I think, are coloured red.

CLAIMS FOR DAMAGE TO GOODS IN TRANSIT ON RAILWAYS

*727. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the amount claimed against the State Railways for damage to goods in transit during the last official year?

(b) Is it a fact that there has been an increase in the damages claimed?

(c) Is it a fact that there is no standard form for submission of claims for damagee?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Indian Government Railways do not maintain statistics of amounts claimed, as frequently the extent of loss, damage etc., is not specified by the claimants. Statistics of compensation payments are, however, maintained. During the official year 1947-48 these amounted to Rs. 1,29,58,684, of which Rs. 12,08,129 represented payments as compensation for damage and breakage.

(b) Yes. It is unfortunately true that there has been an abnormal increase in the claims compensation bill of the Indian Government Railways.

(c) Most of the Indian Government Railways have recently introduced a standard form, available at larger stations in which claims up to Rs. 200 can be preferred. This is part of a new procedure for the expeditious settlement of such claims. The M. & S. M. and B.B. & C.I. Railways have not yet introduced the form, but are being told to do so.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Minister convinced that it is not desirable to maintain the statistics that are not being maintained at the present moment?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: All the statistics which can be maintained are being maintained.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know the percentage of increase in the amount of daruages claimed from the Railways?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I do not quite understand. Percentage increase over what?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Over last year.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I require notice of that.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: What steps do Government propose to take to minimise the compensation against damages?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: We are taking all possible steps to stop pilferage and loss and damage, and we are also taking steps to settle claims quickly.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: What are the reasons for this large increase in loss amounting to Rs. 1 crore?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: During the strain involved in the war and later due to the communal conflict, losses and pilferage and thefts have increased, and the result is the largo number of claims.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: Was any action taken against the Railway officials for negligence of duty?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Wherever negligence can be proved, action has been taken.

LOCOMOTIVES IN USE ON RAILWAYS

*738. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of Locomotives in stock and in use on all the Railways in India and how many of them are of Indian manufacture and how many of foreign manufacture?

(b) In the case of those of Indian manufacture, what is the name of the Workshop in India where they were manufactured?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The total number of locomotives on line on the Indian Government Railways during October 1948

was 7224, and the number in use was 5701. The information regarding the number of locos of Indian manufacture is not available but most are of foreign manufacture.

(b) Locomotives have been manufactured at the Ajmer workshops of the B.B. & C.I. Railway.

WORKSHOP FOR MANUFACTURE OF LOCOMOTIVES

*729. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government of India have taken any decision regarding the location of a locomotive manufacturing workshop in place of Kanchrapara, where at one time it was intended to be located?

(b) If so, where and at what cost? Has any detailed scheme of the said Workshop been prepared?

(c) If so, how much capital is intended to be invested therein and in what time?

(d) What progress, if any, has been made towards the implementation of the scheme and by which time is the said workshop intended to produce the first locomotive?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The workshop is being constructed at Chittaranjan in West Bengal at an estimated cost of Rs. 14 crores approximately, to be completed by 1951.

(d) The construction of the new workshop and the staff colony is well in hand. The machinery and plant for the manufacture of locos are on order and are being received. The first locomotive is expected to be turned out of the shops by the end of 1951.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: May I know what are the factors or considerations which led the Government to change the site of the factory from Kanchrapara?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The main reason was that Kanchrapara was too near the border between Pakistan and us.

WORKSHOPS MANUFACTURING LOCOMOTIVES

†*730. **Pandit Mukut Bihar Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what is the number of locomotives, which are in the process of manufacture in India and what is the name of the workshop where they are being manufactured?

(b) Is there any workshop in India, which is at present manufacturing complete locomotives and if so, what is the number of such workshops? Where are they situated and what is their total annual output?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) 10XT/1 locomotives are under manufacture in the Ajmer workshops of the B.B. & C.I. Railway.

(b) Only the Ajmer workshop of the B.B. & C.I. Railway is manufacturing locomotives in India at present. The actual output during the past twelve months has been four locomotives.

DEVELOPMENT OF AJMER LOCOMOTIVE WORKSHOP

†*731. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Ajmer locomotive workshop is the only one that is at present manufacturing B.G. and M.G. locomotives?

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

(b) What is the approximate cost of the locomotive of each variety produced by this workshop and how does that cost compare with the price of locomotives purchased from outside India?

(c) Have Government any plan for the development of the locomotive workshop at Ajmer and if so, what are the details of such schemes and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Yes.

(b) The Ajmer workshop completed 2 Y.B.(M.G.) locos during 1945 at a cost of Rs. 1,63,631 each. The estimated cost of the 10XT/1 locos is likely to be approximately Rs. 2 lakhs each. The present approximate average cost of an imported B.G. and M.G. loco is as under:

B.G.	Rs. 5.5 lakhs.
M.G.	... Rs. 4.30 lakhs.

(c) There is no plan at present for the development of the Ajmer Workshops for loco manufacture. In view of the schemes to have separate workshops for loco building at Chittaranjan and Singhbhum and in view of the difficulties that exist in developing Ajmer as a repair-cum-manufacturing workshop, it has been decided that, as soon as the Ajmer Workshop has completed its present commitments, it will cease to manufacture locomotives and concentrate on repair work only.

WAGONS AND PASSENGER RAILWAY COACHES

†*782. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what is the number of wagons and passenger coaches of each description in use at present on railways?

(b) What is the number of each description of coaches, (i) which are in the process of manufacture in the workshops in India, and (ii) for which orders have been placed in foreign countries? By what time are the latter expected to be received?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) and (b). A statement giving the information required by the honourable member is being tabled.

STATEMENT

Passenger Coaches and Wagons in service on Class I, II and III Railways as on 31st March, 1948

(Including E.P., Assam and E.I. Railways)

Coaching Vehicles for public use including other coaching vehicles and brakevans.	Class I Railways	B.G.	9,068
		M.G.	6,621
		N.G.	675
		Total	16,364
	Class II Railways	M.G.	991
		N.G.	607
		Total	1,598
	Class III Railways	M.G.	77
		N.G.	558
		Total	635

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

		Covered Wagons	Open Wagons	Tank Wagons	Special wagons other than Tank Wagons
Class I Railways	B.G. .	87,952	52,438	2,401	6,895
	M.G. .	33,080	6,086	796	3,495
	N.G.* .	2,795	..	..	..
* Including Special wagons and brakevans.					
Class II Railways	M.G. .	2,703	Included in covered wagons.		101
	N.G. .	2,365	Do.	..	23
Class III Railways .	M.G. .	193	Do.	..	..
	N.G. .	1,506	..	..	19

(b) (i) 272 coaches (in terms of 4-wheelers) are in the process of construction in Railway workshops. The numbers of each description of these coaches are as under:

	B.G.	M.G.
Class II	12	..
Class III	36	106
Composite Classes I, II and III	8	..
Luggage and Class III . .	..	22
Specials		
Postal and Class III or Brakevans .	10	22
Parcel vans	2	..
Others	50	4
Total .	118	154

Besides these, 100 class III coaches and 174 coach body shells are under manufacture by firms in India.

(ii) 112 Electric Multiple coaches of classes I and III are on order in U.K. The delivery of these coaches is 2 per week commencing from January 1950.

CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

†*733. **Shri Amiyo Kumar Ghosh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) what mileage of National Highways falls within the Province of Bihar; and

(b) whether any construction of National Highways has been started in any of the provinces and if not, when Government are going to take up the construction?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) About 1230 miles.

(b) Yes, work on National Highways has been started in all the provinces, including Bihar.

About 60 miles of new road have already been constructed to a light specification, of which sixteen miles are in Bihar, and improvement works on other stretches, with a total aggregate length of about 200 miles, are nearing completion. In addition, construction of a major bridge in Bihar has been completed and road work on a combined rail and road bridge is nearing completion.

BRIDGE OVER RIVER SONE NEAR DEHRI-ON-SONE

†*734. **Shri Amiyo Kumar Ghosh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether Government propose to construct a bridge over the River Sone near Dehri-on-Sone, in order to connect the Grand Trunk Road?

† Answer to this question, laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Yes, in due course. It will not, however, be possible to take up the work during next year owing to financial stringency and shortage of materials.

TRAINING OF INDUSTRIAL MANAGERS, ACCOUNTANTS AND ADMINISTRATORS

†*735. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether anything has been done by Government to implement their assurance that special efforts will be made to train industrial managers, accountants and administrators;

(b) whether it is proposed to start any special college or to encourage certain Universities to open special faculties in these subjects?

(c) whether any scholars have been sent abroad to become specialists in these subjects; and

(d) whether any officers have been specially deputed to work as apprentices in some of the principal industrial and commercial institutions to gain the required expert knowledge?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookherjee: (a) to (d). The assurance referred to by the honourable member relates to the statement in our Industrial Policy that Government are considering steps to create a body of men trained in business methods and management. The context in which this was stated is that Government would, as a rule, run its own industrial undertakings through the medium of public corporations. Before such a body of men is created, we should make an estimate of the types and numbers likely to be required for the purpose and this can be done only when our industrial projects reach a sufficiently advanced stage. So far only the Sindri project has reached this stage and action to train men required for this factory has been taken. In the case of other industries, action will be taken as soon as project reports are received and examined. I may add that in all our project report agreements with foreign firms, provision has been made by which the firms are required to provide facilities for the training of technical and other staff during the period of construction. I intend to appoint, at the appropriate time, a small Committee to advise Government on the method of selection of the persons to be trained and the manner of training.

PAYMENT OF BONUS FOR FOODGRAINS PROCURED INTERNALLY

†*736. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the Memorandum of January 1948 to the Standing Finance Committee, the Ministry of Food had stated that their scheme of payment of bonus by the Government of India on internal procurement of food grains would not involve further expenditure beyond 1948?

(b) How far has that intention been fulfilled?

(c) Is that subsidy proposed to be continued in 1949 also and if so, on what basis and at what proposed cost?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) In the Memorandum referred to by the honourable member it was stated "According to the present intentions, the proposal is not likely to involve further expenditure beyond 1948".

(b) It has not been possible to discontinue the bonus on procurement as on account of reimposition of controls and dollar limitations it is necessary to have the maximum amount of procurement.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(c) Yes, on the same basis as last year. The approximate cost would be Rs. 422 lakhs.

SUBSIDIES FOR IMPORTED FOODGRAINS

†*737. **Prof. N. G Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether the 1948 basis for allocation of the cost of subsidy on imported food grains between Central and Provincial Governments in the ratio of 2:1 is being continued?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The ratio 2:1 was in force only upto 30th September 1948. Under the Revised Food Policy operative from 1st October, 1948 the Government of India is bearing 3/4th of the subsidy on imported food grains issued to Provinces and ½ of the subsidy on issues to States. At present this arrangement will continue in the case of Provinces upto the end of December 1949 while in the case of States the matter is still under consideration.

ADOPTION OF WORLD WHEAT AGREEMENT BY ALL COUNTRIES

†*738. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state what steps are being taken to see that the World Wheat Agreement will come to be adopted by all countries?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The representatives of India in Washington have been instructed to make every effort to see that a world wheat agreement is satisfactorily concluded.

TRAINING OF PERSONS FOR EMPLOYMENT IN CIVIL AVIATION

†*739. **Shri Amiyo Kumar Ghosh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of persons trained during the year 1948 for employment in civil aviation?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take for training more persons for the purpose?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister for Communications): (a) 464 persons have so far been trained in the different branches of Civil Aviation during 1948-49.

(b) A School for the training of Communication personnel has been in operation in Saharanpur for more than 2 years. A Civil Aviation Training Centre has been established in Allahabad for the purpose of training Commercial pilots, Ground Engineers and Flying Control staff. The first batch of trainees under the Commercial Pilot's course will start their training in the course of the next month. The Ground Engineers Training Unit is expected to commence working in about 6 months.

FLYING CLUBS IN INDIA

†*740. **Shri Amiyo Kumar Ghosh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many flying clubs are there in the Indian Union and what is the basis on which subsidies are granted to them?

(b) Do Government propose to open more flying clubs and if so, will any of them be located in the Province of Bihar?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister for Communications): (a) I lay on the table a note giving the required information.

(b) With the funds available, the intention of the Government of India for the present is to develop and subsidise one flying club at each Provincial Capital. Bihar has already a flying club at Patna.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

STATEMENT

NOTE

There are nine flying clubs in the Provinces in India with headquarters at Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Patna, Bhubaneshwar, Lucknow, Nagpur and Jullundur and three clubs in the States, namely, Mysore and Jodhpur Flying Clubs and the Hyderabad State Aero Club. The nine clubs in the Provinces are in receipt of financial assistance from the Government of India on the scale mentioned in para. 2 below; the 3 clubs in the States have not yet been brought into the scheme due to lack of funds.

2. Financial and other assistance is granted to clubs on the following scale provided Government is satisfied that the clubs are well organized, have local support and adequate technical personnel and equipment :

(i) The clubs are allowed to operate from a Government Civil Aerodrome. A capital grant is made where necessary to assist the club concerned to provide a hangar, workshop and office. Free housing in Government hangars is provided at aerodromes in cases the club has not erected its own hangar; no landing fees are charged.

(ii) Government loans to each club a minimum of four and a maximum of six training aircraft.

(iii) A fixed annual subsidy is paid to each club at a uniform rate which for 1948-49 was Rs. 30,000.

(iv) In order to enable the clubs to offer flying training at rates within the reach of the average citizen, Government contributes part of the operating cost in the shape of a subvention at the rates given below for every flying hour, and a special bonus of Rs. 250 is paid for each pilot trained upto the 'A' licence and an hourly bonus of Rs. 5 per hour for all flying in excess of 1,000 hours per annum.

Hourly subvention in respect of flying by—

(a) Members undergoing pre-entry training for admission to Civil Aviation Centre, Allahabad	... Rs. 25
(b) Other members—Indian Nationals—	
(i) 28 years of age and under—	
For Piper or other light aircraft	... Rs. 15
For Tiger Moth or other heavier aircraft	... Rs. 20
(ii) Over 28 years of age	... Nil.
(c) Other members—Foreign Nationals	Nil.

RESUMPTION OF TRAIN SERVICE WITH WEST PUNJAB

*741. **Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a leader in the *Delhi Statesman*, dated 23rd January, 1949 and the views expressed in several subsequent issues of that paper favouring the resumption of direct passenger train service with West Punjab?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, has the suggestion been considered by Government and if so, with what results?

(c) If the suggestion has not yet been considered, when do Government propose to review the position?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Government are watching the situation continuously. Their present attitude with regard to this matter was fully explained by me in the course of my reply to the general discussion on the Railway Budget on the 21st instant.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Have the Government taken up this issue with the Pakistan Government, and if so, what has been their reaction to this proposal?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: We have not yet taken any initiative in this matter.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Has the Pakistan Government taken any initiative in this matter?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: No.

RAILWAY SIDINGS FOR WEST JHAGRAKHAND AND RAJNAGAR COLLIERIES

*742. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the proposal for the construction of Railway Sidings for West Jhagrakhand Colliery in the Korea State and the nearby Rajnagar Colliery in Rewa State has been sanctioned by the Bengal Nagpur Railway and are now pending with the Railway Board, Government of India, for finalisation?

(b) If so, when were the proposals received and how long will they take to finalise them?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The estimate for the construction of railway sidings at the present-day cost of construction has just been prepared by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, and they are examining the financial implications.

(b) In view of the reply to part (a), the question does not arise.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has any provision been made for the construction of the sidings in the next year's budget?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The estimate not being ready and having not been considered, no provision has been made in the Budget.

DELHI AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

*743. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the Agricultural College at Delhi was started;

(b) the number of students admitted in each year since it was started;

(c) the Provinces, States or Centrally administered areas from which they come, from the commencement of the college; and

(d) the total number of students studying at present in that College?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) 1947.

(b) A statement (No. I) giving the details for each class for each year is laid on the table of the House.

(c) A statement (No. II) giving the names of 15 States and 8 Provinces and the 5 Centrally administered areas is laid on the table.

(d) 126.

STATEMENT I

Number of admissions in the Central College of Agriculture, Delhi.

Year	Class			Total
	Pre-University	1st year	2nd year	
1947	69	17		86
1948	59	1	2	62

STATEMENT II

Number of students admitted in Central College of Agriculture State and Province-wise

	Class					
	Pre-University		1st year		2nd year	
	1947—1948		1947—1948		1947—48	
States						
(1) Patiala	2	2	..	..	..	..
(2) Bundi	1	1	..	..	..	..
(3) Travancore	4	6	..	..	..	1
(4) Kashmir	1	1	..	..	..	..
(5) Kapurthala	1	1	..	..	..	..
(6) Gwalior	1	..	..	..	..	..
(7) Alwar	6	..	..	..	..	..
(8) Bharatpur	..	1	..	..	..	..
(9) Nabha	1	1	..	..	..	..
(10) Dholpur	1	..	..	..	..	..
(11) Jodhpur	2	..	..	..	..	..
(12) Jaipur	..	1	..	..	..	..
(13) Jind	..	..	1	..	..	..
(14) Tripura	..	1	..	..	..	..
(15) Panna	..	1	..	..	..	..
Provinces						
(1) United Provinces	1	1	..	..	..	..
(2) Madras	1	..	..	..	..	..
(3) Assam	7	..	..	..	..	..
(4) Punjab	15	9	14	1	..	..
(5) Bengal	3	4	..	..	..	..
(6) Sind	..	2	1	..	..	..
(7) Bihar	..	1	..	..	..	..
(8) Orissa	..	7	..	..	..	..
Central Administered areas						
(1) Himachal Pradesh (including Sirmaur).	1	2	..	..	..	
(2) Delhi	19	11	1	..	..	1
(3) Coorg	2	2	..	..	..	..
(4) Ajmer-Merwara	3	2	..	..	..	..
(5) Andaman	1	..	..		..	..
(6) Baluchistan	1	..	..		..	..
Other Foreign Governments						
Nepal	..	2	..	..	..	..
Total	69	59	17	1	..	2

GRAND TOTAL—148.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know the total number of students coming from the Centrally Administered Areas for the current year?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would not be able to give that at present.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Is there any agricultural college in Bihar?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. It refers only to Centrally Administered Areas.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Has this college been affiliated to the Delhi University?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes. I think correspondence is going on; the final decision has not yet been taken.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do the applications for admission to this college show that our women are interested in the study of agriculture?

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: Is there any arrangement for training of students who come from outside to this college?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Sometimes we receive applications from Ceylon.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: Are they entertained?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, they are entertained.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Have any non-English knowing boys from agricultural families been admitted into this college?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware of that.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that the Principal of the Agriculture College is an *ex-officio* member of the Executive Council of the Delhi University?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that he was not allowed to participate in the Vice-Chancellor's election?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Reasons for same?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That would be for the University to explain.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: What is the qualification for a student to be admitted into the Agricultural College?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot give it to you from memory.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is there any agricultural farm attached to this college, and are students given some practical training there in agriculture?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They are given practical training at the Agricultural Research Institute.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many women applied for admission to the College during the last year?

Mr. Chairman: Order, order.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it out of order? It is asking for information.

Mr. Chairman: Next question.

STUDENTS' STRIKE IN DELHI AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

*744. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether any students of the Agriculture College at Delhi had gone on strike and if so, when, how many and for what reasons?

(b) What steps did Government take to redress the grievances of students?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes. On 8th November, 1948, all the students of the college decided to abstain from their classes. Their main grievances were that fees charged were high, their study tour expenses should be borne by Government, they should manage their own mess,

water facilities at hostel, should be improved and teaching staff should be strengthened.

(b) It is proposed to reduce the fee and the Provinces and States have been consulted about the payment by them of a capitation charge. Meanwhile, collection of fee at the old rate has been suspended. Other grievances have been redressed.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Do I take it that Government have given in to the student strikers?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: All legitimate grievances ought to be redressed by a democratic Government.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: How long did it take the grievances to reach the Honourable Minister?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It took some time.

Shri B. Das: The suspension of payment of college fee by students of the Agriculture College and the condonation thereof by the Government of India—will that not set a bad example to other college students who may resort to similar strike?

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. It is a matter of opinion.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Has the Government considered the possibility of changing the medium of education in these agricultural colleges from English to Hindustani?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That would be possible in provincial colleges. In a Central college where people come sometimes from outside and from all over India, that would naturally not be possible.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that the representation of these students was lying in the office for several months and the strike could have been averted if it had been brought to the notice of the Honourable Minister by his office earlier?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It was not lying for several months, but it was probably for three or four weeks, but I do admit that if it had been brought to my notice, the strike could have been averted.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Has it been decided to locate this college permanently in Delhi or is there any proposal to shift it to some other place?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The question of the future of the college is under examination and the matter will be decided in consultation with the Standing Committee of the Legislature.

TRACTORS, HARVESTERS, OIL ENGINES, FISHING BOATS AND ELECTRIC PLANTS IMPORTED IN 1948

***745. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the number according to horse power of tractors, harvesters, oil engines, fishing boats and electric plants with their value obtained from foreign countries during the year 1948?

(b) What steps, if any, are being taken for the manufacture of any of the above types of machinery in India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). Two statements are laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT I

Tractors and harvesters obtained by Ministry of Agriculture in 1948 together with their value, horse power, and the countries of manufacture

Description	Quantity in numbers	Draw Bar Horse Power	Value in Rs.	Country of Manufacture
1	2	3	4	5
Tractors				
Allis Chalmers Model HD 7 Tractors	134	55	25,46,000	U.S.A.
Allis-Chalmers Model HD 5 Tractors	12	37	1,03,200	U.S.A.
International Harvester, Model TD 9	6	35	84,000	U.S.A.
International Harvester Model TD 14	11	54	2,01,300	U.S.A.
International Harvester Model TD 6	2	28-14	22,000	U.S.A.
International Harvester (McCormick Deering) Model MD tractor.	1	30	8,000	U.S.A.
		approx.		
International Harvester Model WD 9	9	42	1,11,600	U.S.A.
Caterpillar Model D.4	7	36	1,01,500	U.S.A.
*'Fordson Major' tractors	110	19	8,92,000	U.K.
*Field Marshall tractors	10	32	92,100	U.K.
*John Deere Model 'G' tractors	26	32	1,94,050	U.S.A.
*Massey Harris Model 30K Tractors	42	21	2,32,800	Canada.
Minneapolis-Moline tractors	25	22	1,80,000	U.S.A.
*International Harvester Model W6	20	28	1,24,200	U.S.A.
International Harvester Model W.9	4	32	37,400	U.S.A.
Harvesters				
Minneapolis Moline Garvesters	25	..	2,97,500	U.S.A.
Massey Harris Model 21 Harvesters	23	..	3,17,400	Canada.
Total	418 tractors and 48 harvesters.	..	56,05,050	

* These items were purchased in 1948 by the D.G.(I.&S.) from manufacturers' agents in India. It is not known how many of these items were actually imported by the firms concerned in 1948 and how many before 1948.

NOTE.—Information regarding machineries obtained by private parties during 1948 is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House when ready.

STATEMENT II

Tractors.—The Government of Orissa are contemplating the establishment of a factory in Orissa in association with private enterprise. They have asked the Central Government to participate in the scheme. This is now under consideration.

Messrs. Marshall Sons & Co. (India) Ltd., Calcutta have informed that they have an intention of setting up a factory. They have not, however, sent us their concrete scheme so far.

Harvesters.—At present, Government are mainly concentrating on tractors and the manufacture of harvesters will be considered later.

Oil engines.—The installed capacity for the manufacture of diesel oil engines in the country at present is 1,200 engines per annum. A few factory for the manufacture of diesel oil engines in India has been completed by Messrs. Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd. The factory has already manufactured proto-types and will go into bulk production shortly. This will raise the capacity in the country from 1,200 to 4,500 engines per year.

Fishing boats.—There are 11 builders capable of fabricating fishing boats (self-propelled) at the various ports of India.

Electric plants.—There is already an organised industry in India for the manufacture of Ac3 phase squirrel Cage motors from one to 30 H.P. in aggregate of 30,000 units on an average. The expansion of this industry is under way and it is expected that by the end of 1950 the yearly capacity of the industry will have been raised to 250,000 H.P. or 90,000 units. The above capacity is expected to be sufficient for the country's requirements in the

near future in the range of manufacture specified above. Government also intend to establish a factory for the manufacture of heavy electric power plant and an agreement has been recently signed with two foreign firms of Consulting Engineers for drawing up a project report.

IMPORT AND MANUFACTURE OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY

*746. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh.** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Agriculture is proposing to import agricultural machinery and vehicles worth more than Rupees 150 crores during the next few years?

(b) Are any steps being taken to manufacture any of them in India in the near future?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Schemes for development of agriculture are yet to be finalised and it is not, therefore, possible to indicate at present the exact amount of expenditure likely to be incurred on the purchase of machinery etc.

(b) Yes, Sir. I would refer the honourable member to the reply given by me to part (b) of the previous questions just now answered.

POST OFFICES FOR VILLAGES IN ROHTAK DISTRICT, EAST PUNJAB

*747. **Ch. Ranbir Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there are no village post offices in villages Balliana and Bidhlan of tehsil Rohtak, Jagsi and Samsi of tehsil Gohana; and Purkhas of tehsil Sonepat in District Rohtak in East Punjab?

(b) Are Government aware that the population of each of these villages is nearly four thousands each?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to start village post offices in each of these villages and if not, why not?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister for Communications): (a) No Post Office exists in any of these villages at present.

(b) No. A statement indicating the population of each of these villages is placed on the table of the House.

(c) Yes. Sanction for the opening of a Post Office at Purkhas has been accorded. The question of opening Post Offices at Bidhlan, Balliana, Jagsi (not Jagari) and Sbamri (not Samari) is under consideration.

STATEMENT

Population of the villages

Purkhas	2,714
Bidhlan	2,120
Jagsi	3,736
Balliana	2,513
Shamri	3,040

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know how many post offices are going to be opened in the villages during the next year?

Shri Khurshed Lal: If the honourable member will wait for the reply to the next question by Mr. Tyagi, he will get the figures.

POST OFFICES FOR RURAL AREAS

*748. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of new post offices opened by Government in the rural areas during the financial year 1948-49 and how many do they plan to open during the next financial year?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister for Communications): 1,581 new post offices have been opened during the current financial year upto 15th January, 1949 and it is expected that 2,000 new post offices will be opened in the rural areas during the next financial year.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is the Honourable Minister aware that in the hilly parts of Dehra Dun there are no post offices and the postman reaches those areas only once a fortnight or month?

Shri Kurshed Lal: Steps are being taken to open post offices there.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Have the Government taken into account the hilly areas of the United Provinces as a whole?

Shri Kurshed Lal: As I said, we are taking into account all those areas and trying to open post offices there.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: Pending the opening of post offices in rural areas, will the Government consider the question of having daily service in all villages?

Shri Kurshed Lal: Service will be expedited as much as possible.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will he consider the question of giving daily mail service at least in the villages of the Delhi province, within a radius of 15 miles of the capital?

Shri Kurshed Lal: I am unable to say at present what can be done.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Is it a fact that some of the post offices in rural areas have been closed down?

Shri Kurshed Lal: I should like to have notice of that question.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Are there any villages which are not served by any post office at present?

Shri Kurshed Lal: If the honourable member will tell me the names of such villages I will enquire and give a reply.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Will the Honourable Minister give the number of newly opened post offices province-wise?

Shri Kurshed Lal: I will not be able to give that figure.

Claims on Railways for Compensation for Lost Goods

*749. **Shri B. N. Munavalli:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what was the number of claim petitions for compensation for lost goods received in the year 1948?

(b) How many claim petitions have been disposed of so far and what is the total amount paid in those cases?

(c) How many claim petitions are still outstanding and what is the total amount claimed in those outstanding petitions?

(d) What steps have been taken to check loss of goods and with what results?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) to (c). Information is being is called for from the Railway Administrations, and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(d) The Indian Government Railways have given much attention to the preventive aspect of claims compensation work for several years, and a further intensified campaign of claims prevention planned on a well organised basis, with due regard to the experience gained in recent years, was initiated on and from 1st of January 1949. It is yet too early to come to any definite conclusions with regard to the results; but there are indications that further increase in the number of claims has been arrested.

COMPROMISE ON PRICES FOR INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT

*750. **Shri B. N. Munavalli:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the world's big wheat-producing countries have reached a compromise with importing countries on prices for the proposed international wheat agreement;

(b) if so, what the details of the said compromise are;

(c) whether any progress has been made by the Quantities Committee in reconciling the supply with demand and if so, to what extent;

(d) whether the details of India's needs in wheat has been intimated by the Government of India; and

(e) if so, what is the quantity and what will be its approximate cost?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) to (e). The International Wheat Conference is still in session in Washington. No final agreement has so far been arrived at on prices or quantities. Details will be known only after an agreement is reached.

ENQUIRY INTO COST OF PRODUCTION OF COAL

*751. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether for purposes of implementating the awards of the Conciliation Board in the Coal mines in Bengal and Bihar and that of the Fact Finding Committee in the Central Provinces and enhancing the price of coal, any enquiry was made by Government into the cost of production of coal?

(b) If so, who made the enquiry and what was the cost of production of coal per ton in different collieries in Bengal, Bihar and the Central Provinces?

(c) What was the procedure adopted for such enquiry?

(d) If not, how was the rate of increase in Bihar and Bengal at Rs. 3/8 per ton and Rs. 3 per ton in the Central Provinces arrived at?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The enquiry was made by Government through experienced officers with knowledge of working of coal mines and Cost Accounting. In the case of Bengal/Bihar coalfields, the advice of the Commodities Prices Board was also taken. The average production cost per ton from the representative collieries was estimated to range from Rs. 10-10 to Rs. 14-2 excluding colliery consumption and free issues to labour in the case of Bengal/Bihar and from Rs. 13-5-9 to Rs. 15-8 in the case of C.P. and Berar.

(c) The production cost per ton was arrived at on the basis of the cost sheets furnished by the collieries and after investigation into the accounts of the collieries which were considered representative in character.

(d) The quantum of increase granted in the selling prices of coal was arrived at on the basis of the production cost per ton after taking into account among other factors the estimated increase consequent on the grant of increased wages and other concessions to colliery labour *plus* a reasonable margin for profit. The increase granted in the selling prices of C.P. and Berar ranged from Rs. 2-13 to Rs. 3-7 per ton instead of Rs. 3 per ton as mentioned by the honourable member.

Shri R. L. Malviya: May I ask whether the Government received cost sheets from each and every coal field?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have just explained that we selected some representative collieries.

Shri B. Das: What is the reasonable margin of profit which the Minister allows to a colliery owner?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The average profit is Rs. 1-8 per ton.

DISCONTINUANCE OF RATIONING OF PETROL

*752 **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether rationing of motor spirit will be discontinued;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) to (c). The question of discontinuing the rationing of motor spirit was reviewed recently. It is not possible at present to abolish petrol rationing in view of the present supply position, inland transportation capacity and in the event of emergencies, the need for controlling distribution to desired ends. The position is constantly under review with a view to lifting the control as soon as conditions permit.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is petrol in short supply today?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Yes, Sir. Our demand is of the order of 260 million gallons, while the supply is about 150 million gallons.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What were the causes for the total petrol famine in New Delhi yesterday?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I was not here yesterday. I would require notice of the question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that during or after the Jaipur session of the Congress, acute shortage of petrol was experienced in several parts of the country?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I wish to submit that this does not arise from this question.

Mr. Chairman: It refers only to rationing of petrol.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: May I ask whether it is a fact that at the end of the last month and, in fact, at the end of every month, there is no petrol available in Delhi?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I am not aware of that.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that even today the big petrol bunk on Queensway is without petrol?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, the honourable member is giving me information.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that petrol rationing is not in vogue in Bombay?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I am not aware of it.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether in the month of January the cut which was imposed in Bombay was removed and whether in Poona thereafter there was no petrol available?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Owing to transportation difficulties, the quantities available at ports have been increased. So it is possible that while in Bombay there was petrol and in Poona there was difficulty.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Is there any arrangement for inspection to see whether there is petrol in the bunks or not?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I do not think there is any official inspection. Each petrol bunk is allowed a quota and the bunks are expected to keep that supply. Sometimes there is a heavy withdrawal and there is shortage.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: Is it a fact that though large quotas are allotted to inland areas there is shortage of petrol owing to the lack of tank wagons and other transport difficulties? What steps do Government propose to take to remove these difficulties?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: It is true that there is a shortage of tank wagons. We have given an order for a large number of tank wagons. Till they arrive there may be some difficulty.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the distribution has become very defective since he became Minister in charge?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I must protest against this insinuation.

SUBSIDY TO MADRAS GOVERNMENT FOR WYNAD COLONISATION SCHEME

*753 **Shri P. Kunhiraman:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government of India have paid any subsidy for the Wyuad Colonisation Scheme of the Government of Madras?

(b) If so, what is the amount paid and when was it paid?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). The Wynad Colonisation Scheme was approved by Government of India for financial assistance from the Block Central grant in 1947-48 and 1948-49. The estimated cost of the scheme for these years was 4·40 lakhs and 9·92 lakhs respectively. Information as to actual expenditure incurred by Madras Government and amount paid by the Government of India each year is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

Shri P. Kunhiraman: Is there any condition attached to the payment of subsidy?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The only condition attached that I am aware of was that besides the soldiers the civil population also should benefit from the scheme.

SALOONS FOR OFFICERS IN ASSAM RAILWAYS

*754 **Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of saloons for the use of officers of the Assam Railways.

(b) the number of saloons allowed to Railway officers before 1948 in the area at present served by the Assam Railways; and

(c) the number of officers before and after the division of India in the Assam Railways?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) The number of saloons at present available on the Assam Railway for the use of officers is 48.

(b) and (c). In view of the fact that the Assam Railway has been organised as a separate admiuistration only after the partition, comparison with pre-partition conditions is not possible nor would it justify any reliable interferences.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Which classes or categories of railway officials are permitted the use of railway saloons?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The senior officers who are bound to go on inspection duties.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Minister aware that there are instances of minor railway officials who use the Railway saloons?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, there are special vans for class III staff who have got to work on the line. Therefore, every officer who has to go and do work on the line is entitled to some kind of conveyance and the conveyance depends upon his seniority and status.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: I did not hear the answer to (c). What is the number of officers who are entitled just now?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: On 1st October, 1947 the total number of class I and II officers was 84. The strength on 1st January, 1949 was 107.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is there any proposal to scrap the saloons and convert them into ordinary coaches before the Government, since most of these officers who were travelling in these coaches are now travelling by planes?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: It is not true, Sir.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: My question was: Has the Government before it any proposal to scrap these saloons and convert them into ordinary coaches in view of the fact that most of these officers who were travelling by the saloons have now taken to air traffic.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The fact does not exist and, therefore, there is no such proposal.

Mr. Chairman: The question does not arise.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Do Government think that 48 saloons are sufficient for 107 officers to discharge their duties efficiently?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, a saloon is used by more than one officer, and therefore, they are considered sufficient.

CEMENT FACTORIES

*755. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the total number of cement factories in the Indian Union in the years 1947-48 and 1948-49?

(b) How many of these were working in each year?

(c) What was the annual production in each factory?

(d) How much out of this production was purchased by Central and Provincial Governments?

(e) What was the quantity made available to (i) companies and firms and (ii) private individuals?

(f) What quantity was utilized in Delhi, Bombay and Madras cities?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) 19 factories in 1947 and 22 in 1948.

(b) 18 factories were in regular production in both the years. The output of one factory has been sporadic and insignificant due to inferior equipment and non-availability of raw materials. Three have installed the plants and are expected to go into production this year.

(c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(d) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of the factory	Production during 1947-48 (in tons)	Production during April 1948 to Dec. '48 (in tons)
1.	Associated Cement Co. Kymore	1,71,122	1,39,964
2.	" " " Khalari	65,810	55,749
3.	" " " Chaibasa	73,942	78,363
4.	" " " Surajpur	85,289	74,574
5.	" " " Lakheri	1,86,979	1,46,905
6.	" " " Behrain	51,634	37,838
7.	" " " Okha	1,07,800	96,425
8.	" " " Porbander	31,689	20,787
9.	" " " Shahabad	1,69,237	77,668
10.	" " " Kistna	80,533	65,590
11.	" " " Madhkarai	1,27,923	1,22,694
12.	Rohtas Industries " Dalmianagar	46,244	45,097
13.	Dalmia Cement Ltd., Dalmia Dadri	18,267	24,589
14.	" " " Dalmiapuram	66,571	60,274
15.	Sone Valley Portland Cement Co. Ltd., Japla	1,19,947	82,948
16.	Andhra Cement Co. Ltd., Beswada	20,771	19,657
17.	Kalyanpur Lime & Cement Co., Ltd., Kalyanpur	27,721	21,145
18.	Mysore Iron & Steel Works, Bhadravati	21,959	16,657
		1,473,418	1,186,814

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, how many new factories are likely to be established during the course of the present year and the next year?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: In 1949 we expect three factories will start operation, one in Jamnagar, Tinnevelly and Kottayam.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: What percentage of the total production of cement has been reserved for the construction of cinema houses?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: None.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that in several factories large stocks of cement are lying for want of proper transport?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There have been some transport difficulties, but things have improved in the last three months and we expect further improvement in the course of the following months.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Could the Honourable Minister give us an idea as to how many licenses had been issued to private firms.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Three licenses have been granted, which will come into operation in the course of 1949.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: Which is the biggest cement factory in the country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: From the production point of view last year the Associated Cement Company at Lakhira was the biggest.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In the allotment of cement, does the construction of houses get the top-most priority or something else gets?

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. It is only about cement factories. The question does not arise.

Shri Sita Ram S. Jajoo: Is it a fact that the cement quota for Madhya Bharat could not be sent for the last nine months?

Mr. Chairman: This question does not arise. It is only about the number of cement factories.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Part (e) of the answer refers to the allotment of cement. My question was: In the allotment of cement, does the construction of houses get the top-most priority or does something else get it?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as the question of distribution is concerned, we have now left it in the hands of the Provinces, except certain items which are under Central control. It is for the Provinces to decide whether they put any restriction for use of cement for construction purposes.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I take it that the factories cannot distribute cement on their own terms to anybody else except the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is so.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does not the Central Government lay down the broad lines of policy for the Provincial Governments to follow in this matter?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have to give a certain amount of discretion to the Provinces and we certainly tell them that they use cement for essential purposes and not for non-essential purposes.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether India is self-sufficient in cement? If not, how much time shall we take to become self-sufficient?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are not self-sufficient. Honourable members might have noticed two days ago we have put Cement on Open General License List so far as non-Dollar areas are concerned, but by 1952, we expect to increase our production by about 2 million tons at least.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that cement is still selling at more than Rs. 10 per bag in the black market in Delhi?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I shall ask the Delhi Administration.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: According to the policy laid down by the Government for the guidance of the provinces, which items gets the first priority?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as the quotas to the Provinces are concerned, we do not indicate any items in order of priority. We leave it to the provinces to decide as to how best consumption should be utilised for their provincial use.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does the Honourable Minister recollect the statement made by the Prime Minister on the floor of this House some months ago that so far as the use of cement and other building materials are concerned, Provincial Governments have been asked to give priority to residential houses and not cinema houses?

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Minister has already answered that question; In an earlier answer he has said that cement has not been given to cinema houses.

Shri H. V. Kamath: My question was what priority was given to house building as against the cinema houses? The prime Minister made a statement some months ago in which he said that in this matter we have informed the provincial Governments that.....

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir. I am not quite clear as to what the honourable member's difficulty is. There is no doubt about it. Both the Central Government and the Provincial Governments are following this policy of discouraging not only cinema houses and the like, but other luxury buildings.

CONTRACTOR-CASHIER ON N. W. RAILWAY

*756 **Shri Mahavir Tyagi.** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 622 asked on the 5th March, 1948, and state whether the contractor—Cashier of the old North Western Railway who had failed to render accounts to the extent of over fifty lakhs, has now rendered accounts?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: No. The position is that the entire matter is still under reference with the Chief Auditor, N.W. Railway, who has yet to furnish a complete and detailed analysis of the claims against the Contractors. An Assistant Accounts Officer has since been deputed to visit Lahore to obtain or to compile, if necessary, the particulars in question.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that the amount involved was to the extent of 50 lakhs?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Yes. It is to the extent of 54 lakhs.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if the contractor has again been reemployed in the E.P. Railway?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam. No, Sir. He has got no kind of employment in the Railways.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is he still keeping the accounts of the E.P. Railway?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: No, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWER

ELECTRIC DEVICE TO AVOID BURGLARY, THEFT AND ACCIDENTS ON RAILWAYS

*757 **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any automatic electric device to avoid burglary, theft and accidents on Railways has been invented?

(b) If so, have the Railway authorities had any demonstration of it and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Yes. Sri P. C. Mukerji, a Calcutta scientist has invented an automatic electric device for the prevention of burglary, theft and accident on railways.

(b) The device was demonstrated in the presence of the General Manager, E. I. Railway, who is satisfied that the proposal is not an acceptable one. The operation of the device is dependent on electric circuit which can be tampered with, so making its operation uncertain and unreliable. In the event of the failure of the equipment, there would be the possibility of the doors being fixed in the locked position and thereby leading to considerable inconvenience. A corresponding measure of protection could be obtained in a much shorter time by continuing the policy at present followed by railways of overhauling and where necessary replacing the present type of mechanical door and window catches.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

LAND UNDER FOODGRAIN CULTIVATION

41. **Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the total acreage under cultivation of food grains at present province-wise?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: A statement showing province-wise the acreages under the principal foodgrains during the year 1947-48 is laid on the table. (The fall in acreage is mainly in East Punjab due to disturbances and large scale movement of rural population after partition).

STATEMENT

Acreage under principal foodgrains (Rice, Wheat, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Barley and Gram) in Indian Dominion and the Provinces in 1947-48

Provinces and Local Administrations	Thousand Acres 1947-48 (Final Forecast)
Assam (a)	3,623
Bihar	15,815
Bombay	17,617
C.P. and Berar	14,581
East Punjab (b)	9,385
Madras	18,234 (c)
Orissa	6,665 (d)
U.P.	32,994
West Bengal	9,959
Ajmer-Merwara (e)	854
Coorg (e)	87
Delhi(e)	236
TOTAL	1,28,367

(a) Relates to Rice only.
(b) Excludes Ragi only.
(c) Excludes to barley and wheat only.
(d) Excludes barley only.
(e) Excludes rice and ragi only.

TECHNICAL STAFF IN AGRICULTURAL AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DIVISIONS OF I. C. A. R.

42. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Miniater of Agriculture be pleased to state what is the strength of the technical staff in the Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Divisions of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research?

(b) How many Research Officers are there for different subjects and how many of the staff are permanent?

(c) Do Government propose to increase the strength of the present staff?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The strength of the technical staff in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is eight in the Agricultural and six in Animal Husbandry Divisions.

(b) There are thirteen statistical research workers, besides 2 professors and two assistant professors. Except the latter four, the rest of statistical staff is permanent.

(c) In view of financial stringency, no increase in the staff is contemplated at present.

PUBLICATIONS BY INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

43. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research publish any popular Agricultural periodical?

(b) Are there any plans for publishing popular pamphlets for the education of Indian farmers on the lines of the Farmers Bulletins of the United States of America; and

(c) if so, what are they?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research publishes two monthly journals at present, namely, Indian Farming (in English) and Kheti (in Hindi).

(b) and (c). The matter is under consideration.

GAZETTED AND NON-GAZETTED STAFF IN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY

44. Prof. Yashwant Rai: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state?

(i) the number of Gazetted officers;
(ii) the number of Superintendents;
(iii) the number of assistants; and
(iv) the number of clerks and stenographers working in the Ministry of Industry and Supply?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The required information is given below:

(i) Number of Gazetted Officers 76[2]*
(ii) Number of Superintendents 44[1]†
(iii) Number of Assistants 1,845.
(iv) Number of clerks and Stenographers 6,808.

GAZETTED AND NON-GAZETTED STAFF IN THE MINISTRIES OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

45. Prof. Yashwant Rai: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(i) the number of Gazetted officers;
(ii) the number of Superintendents;
(iii) the number of assistants; and
(iv) the number of clerks and stenographers in the Ministries of Food and Agriculture?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Two statements showing the number of Gazetted officers, Superintendents, Assistants, Clerks and Stenographers employed at present in each of the Ministries of Food and Agriculture (including the attached and subordinate offices) are laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT I

Number of Gazetted Officers, Superintendents, Assistants, Clerks and Stenographers employed at present in the Ministry of Food (including the attached and subordinate offices)

(i) Gazetted Officers	... 117
(ii) Superintendents (including Head Clerks)	... 38
(iii) Assistants (including Assistants-in-charge)	... 258
(iv) Clerks and Stenographers	... 478
	891

* Includes one officer on part time.
† Includes 20 Superintendents who are Gazetted and 228 Executive (Non-Gazetted).

STATEMENT II

Number of Gazetted Officers, Superintendents, Assistants, Clerks and Stenographers employed at present in the Ministry of Agriculture (including the attached and subordinate offices)

(i) Gazetted Officers	... 552
(ii) Superintendents (including Head Clerks)	... 51
(iii) Assistants (including Assistants-in-charge)	... 559
(iv) Clerks and Stenographers	... 1,187
	2,349

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

THREATENED RAILWAY STRIKE AND ACTION AGAINST COMMUNISTS

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of communists who have been arrested during the last three days in different provinces of the country as a precautionary measure against the threatened railway strike; and

(b) what other action Government propose to take to ensure that no obstruction is placed in the way of Railway staff and workers, who are opposed to the strike by the Communists?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, with your permission, I propose to reply to both parts of this question in the form of a statement, which I think will interest the House.

2. The total number of persons arrested during the last ten days, in connection with the proposed railway strike, is 870. This figure is accurate up till yesterday.

3. The policy of Government has been not to interfere, in any way, with the functioning of trade unions and other labour organisations. Government are of opinion that the formation and the legitimate functioning of trade unions should be encouraged, so that labour may play its proper part in industry and in the promotion of its own interests. Government have attempted to give the widest latitude to all peaceful propaganda of any policy or doctrine, even though they were opposed to that doctrine. Government have refrained from taking any action against the Communist Party of India as such, in spite of a virulent propaganda and incitement to violence which the Communist Party members have indulged in. Where violence has been actually attempted or encouraged, Government have taken action. Such action has been limited to individuals who were connected with this violence or encouragement of violence.

4. The Communist Party of India has, during the past year, adopted an attitude not only of open hostillity to Government but one, which can be described as bordering on open revolt. This policy has been given effect to intensively in certain limited areas of India and has resulted in violence including murders, arson, and looting as well as acts of sabotage. The House is well aware of the communist revolts that have taken place in countries bordering on India. It was presumably in furtherance of the same policy that attempts were made in India to incite people to active revolt. Fortunately, these attempts failed because of the strength of popular opinion against them and the action taken by Government. Nevertheless a great deal of misery and damage was caused by them in certain parts of India.

5. The House is fully aware that for the last several months we have been greatly preoccupied with meeting the serious economic situation which has been causing distress to millions of our people. It was implicit in our programme that there should be rapid movement of commodities throughout the country.

6. Towards the end of November, the Working Committee of the All India Railwaymen's Federation met in Nagpur and decided on taking a strike ballot among the members affiliated to it. At this time we had additional confirmation of information which had been coming to us from time to time, that certain communist elements working in the railway unions were bent on exploiting the proposed strike for political purposes and, in particular, on using violence and sabotage to gain their ends.

7. Negotiations then took place between my colleague, the Transport Minister and Shri Jayaprakash Narayan, the president of the All India Railwaymen's Federation, with a view to devising means for averting the strike. It was clear to Government that a strike in the railways would, particularly at the present juncture, be an unmitigated disaster to the country. Apart from the fact that dislocation of transportation would nullify the steps that Government have been taking to meet the serious economic situation facing the country, a famine was developing in Gujarat and Kutch and a strike would be disastrous to millions of human beings and cattle in these areas. These discussions were conducted in a friendly atmosphere and certain arrangements were agreed to. As a result, the Railwaymen's Federation decided not to proceed with the strike.

8. In spite of this decision of the Railwaymen's Federation, certain communist elements in the Federation proceeded with their programme for a strike. Reports continue to reach Government, through reliable sources, that a widespread programme of sabotage had been planned and that it was decided to enforce the strike by means of violence. Indeed, many such instances of sabotage have already occurred. Recently there were unfortunate clashes between some students and others and the police in Calcutta, and during these clashes, hand-grenades and bombs were used against the police and public property, such as buses and tramcars were destroyed. We have evidence that the same agencies which provided these weapons to the students are exploiting them for similar purposes during the railway strike.

9. The Communist Party of India has recently concentrated on the issue of a general strike on the railways as well as in other essential services of paramount importance to the community. It has looked upon these strikes not from the trade union or economic point of view, meant to better the lot of the workers, but as a weapon designed to create a chaotic state in the country which, it is thought, would help the Party to gain its other objectives, whatever they might be. It is deliberately seeking to create famine conditions by paralysing the railway system, so that foodstuffs should not be transported, the object being to create a general background of chaos, a breakdown of the administration and mass uprisings. A large number of prominent communist party members have gone underground and Government have a mass of evidence in their possession to indicate that organised attempts are being made to conduct campaigns of sabotage, more especially on the railway system. The permanent way was to be damaged, locomotives interfered with, and general sabotage of vital installations, telephones, telegraphs and power stations was aimed at. Honourable Members will remember the destruction of the Calcutta Telephone Exchange some time ago.

10. Fortunately, the great majority of railwaymen and other workers have declared themselves opposed to the general strike and to such methods. The Communist Party of India, however, appears to be bent on flouting the

opinion of this majority of workers and has pursued a technique of terrorising those who do not agree with its policy. While interfering with the freedom of action of others, it demands full freedom for itself to carry on its own antisocial and disruptive activities. If any action is taken by Government to check these activities, protests are raised on the ground of civil liberties being interfered with. As a part of this technique, organisations for the ostensible object of protecting civil liberties are started, their real object being to encourage these anti-social activities. Government are anxious that the civil liberties of the people should be fully maintained. But it is not Government's conception of civil liberty to permit methods of coercion and terrorism to be practised against the general community. It is the paramount duty of Government to give security to the people and to prevent the normal life of the community from being interfered with by such methods of violence. No Government and no social life would be possible, if these methods were tolerated. Hence Government have been compelled to take all necessary measures to meet this situation. If any strike takes place on the railways by a fraction of the railwaymen or elsewhere, they are determined to deal with it firmly. Such a strike at this juncture, it must always be remembered, has nothing to do with economic questions or the normal activities of trade unions and the like. Government have already shown their earnest desire to meet all legitimate demands of their employees and other workers. They will always be prepared to consider any difficulties that their employees have to face and to remove them as far as possible. They are determined to maintain the well-established rights of labour. But they cannot submit to threats of violence and incitement to active revolt from any quarter.

11. In furtherance of this policy, Government have arrested a number of members of the Communist Party of India and have taken such other precautionary measures as they deem necessary. They have advised provincial Governments to do likewise so as to ensure that vital installations are protected against sabotage. They have no doubt that in doing so they have the full support of the country and of this House, which is wedded to democratic procedure and is entirely opposed to methods of violence.

12. The nature of the activities and objectives of certain groups in the country can be judged by the events which took place at Dum Dum and other places in Calcutta two days ago. A meeting was held in the maidan under the auspices of the Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress, which is a body dominated by the Communist Party of India. Speakers urged the seizure of power by violent means. A student of the Bengal Provincial Students Federation, which is also dominated by the Communist Party of India, stated that a saboteur gang of students was ready for action. Three groups had gone out previously on taxies, motorcars and buses and did considerable damage. Fourteen of these terrorists were captured on Saturday night and a quantity of hand grenades, sten guns and bombs were recovered from them. The arrested men belong to what is known as the Revolutionary Communist Party of India which broke away from the Communist Party of India but collaborates with it on occasions. This group of R.C.P.I. men was responsible for the incident at the water works at Talla a few months ago, when an attempt was made to blow up the water works machinery.

13. This recent incident in Calcutta gives some indication of the kind of action that is intended by those people who are working for general strikes. I have just heard of these cases of attempts to derail trains during the last two days. It is against this kind of action that every precaution has to be taken. Government are satisfied that the vast number of railway employees and other workers in the country do not want such general strike and are

opposed to such methods. It is Government's duty not only to protect the general community but also these large numbers of workers. In any action that Government may take, they will always remember that the working classes are the backbone of the country and that their general interests must not suffer. May I add an expression of the Government's regret at the killing by these terrorists of a number of persons in Calcutta during the last two or thee days. These include a number of police officers and men and officers of Messrs. Jessop Limited and of the B.O.A.C.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: In view of this evidence which the Government have of the Communist Party corroborating with the terrorists, have Government considered the advisability of declaring it an unlawful association?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government are always reluctant to declare any organization as such unlawful. Government will even allow, as the House knows, the continued publication of periodicals, which, whether they are Communist or whether they are otherwise, are often indulging in the most virulent propaganda. No doubt what the honourable member has suggested is being and will be considered, but Government always prefer not to deal with an organisation as such but rather with the individuals who are in it.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that a large number of Congressmen, or persons believed to be Congressmen have been killed by Communists in Hyderabad and roundabout areas? If so, what is their approximate number?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: When the honourable member mentions Congressmen in Hyderabad presumably he means members of the State Congress of Hyderabad. I am unable to supply any exact numbers, but from the general information we have received, over two hundred members of the State Congress have been individually murdered in certain areas of Hyderabad.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Have Government taken any action against the publication of the People's Age in Bombay? Is it a fact that the Newspaper Advisory Committee for the province have advised action against this paper?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, I believe that the Press Advisory Committee of the Bombay Province has advised the Provincial Government to take action against the People's Age.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any evidence to show that some Indian communists, not content with incitement to violence and revolt against their own Government here, are engaged in fighting and subverting a good neighbour Government—I mean the Burma Government?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There may be individuals acting in this way and probably there are.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Is the Communist Party not banned in any province in India?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, in West Bengal.

Mr. R. Pokar: May I know whether the Government has any information as to the number of Communists in India? If so, which is the province in which they are the largest in number and how many of them have gone underground?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I could not give any exact numbers in regard to the number of Communist Party members or their sympathisers, or those who have gone underground. Probably the numbers actually involved are not very big.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: Is it a fact that the leader of the revolutionary Communist Party of India was arrested by Government under the Public Safety Act and that he was released six months back?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not quite know except that the revolutionary Communist Party of India, which was a faction which separated from the Communist Party, itself later split up into two!

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Do you believe it?

Mr. Chairman: Order, order.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: You say that the revolutionary Communist Party of India has split up into two parts now?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know who is the leader of which group and what happened to him.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I enquire whether the Government is taking any steps to check the infiltration of Communists from Malaya, and Burma who are coming as refugees to this country?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not aware of any serious danger of that type. Naturally the Government tries to keep wide awake to all such possibilities. But so far there has been no cause for alarm for this particular type of danger.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I was enquiring whether the Government was aware that those refugees from Burma and Malaya who are coming to India are really Communists and they are establishing a link with the Communists in this country. Have Government kept a watchful eye on that?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not aware of any particular case of that type. It is a possibility of course!

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know what steps Government are taking for eliminating Communists who are non-employees?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not understand this question. Eliminating from where?

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: What steps are Government taking to eliminate Communists from the Railwaymen's Federation who are not employees of the Railways?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I still do not understand. There may be a policy of encouraging or rather discouraging non-workers from being office-bearers of the Union. There may be possibly that policy. But it is undesirable to apply political labels to individuals of that type.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Have Government ascertained the source or agency through which the Communists are obtaining their arms and ammunition?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There must be some information in possession of Government. Since the last war, there have been many ways of getting arms and ammunition, more especially in certain frontier areas—Assam, Bengal, etc., and I have no doubt that many of these Communists have been able to get these arms from those particular sources.

Departmental Committee on Hindu Code

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Departmental Committee set up by the Ministry of Law to revise the Hindu Code Bill, referred to the Select Committee on the 9th April, 1948, was instructed not to make any substantial changes in the body of the original Bill;

(b) what the terms of instructions to the Departmental Committee in this respect were; and

(c) who the members of the Departmental Committee were?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). No such instructions were issued to the departmental committee. The first revised draft of the Bill was prepared by myself with the subject matter rearranged in a consecutive and logical form.

(c) The departmental committee consisted of Messrs K. Y. Bhandarkar, D. H. Nanavati and G. R. Rajagopal of the Ministry of Law. Mr. S. V. Gupte an advocate of Bombay was also invited to work on the Committee. I myself acted as Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. Nazimuddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Minister aware of any substantial changes made in the departmental draft?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I suppose my honourable friend will next ask us to what changes have been made.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: At what stage was this Bill converted into an official Bill?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It was always an official Bill when it was introduced.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is there any cabinet decision on record?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Bill was introduced on the instruction of the Cabinet.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Was the motion for consideration referred to the Cabinet for approval and has it been so approved by all the members of the Cabinet?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It has the approval of the Government. Once the introduction of the Bill has been sanctioned by the Cabinet no further reference to the Cabinet has become necessary.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Am I to understand then that since the time the Bill was introduced no further reference of any sort has been made to the Cabinet collectively?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Oh yes: it has been.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: At what time and with what result?

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: What is the authority under which the Honourable Minister has brought about the changes in the Bill?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have not brought about any changes in the Bill. The changes have been made by the Select Committee, as I have pointed out.

Mr. Chairman: All these points have been covered by the Speaker's ruling. We shall pass on to the next item.

Monday
28th February, 1949

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART II—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Official Report

Volume II, 1949

(24th February, 1949 to 18th March, 1949)

Fourth Session

OF THE

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

1949

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART II—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Monday, 28th February, 1949

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Chairman (Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

12-15 P.M.

STATEMENT *RE* LOCOMOTIVES IMPORTED FROM U. S. A. AND CANADA

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Railways and Transport): During the discussions on the Railway Budget, the Honourable Shri Mahavir Tyagi expressed misgivings regarding the order recently placed by the Railway Board for 300 locomotives in the U. S. A. and Canada; certain criticisms have also appeared in the press. In my speech at the close of the debates on the 23rd instant I commenced to reply to these but was unable to complete it for lack of time. At the request of the honourable members present and with the concurrence of the Honourable the Deputy Speaker, I undertook to make a statement to the House giving the real facts, and with your permission, Sir, I now make this statement in compliance with that undertaking.

2. The criticisms levelled against these locomotives are broadly—

(1) As regards design—

(a) that they are too heavy for Indian track;

(b) that they are not intended to run on track supported by wooden sleepers;

(c) that they are of a type suitable only to American conditions, and will not give satisfactory performance in India;

(d) that they are designed to draw heavier loads which will require considerable alteration in the existing yards; and

(e) that they are provided with bar frames which cannot be repaired in our Workshops.

(2) In respect of placing the orders—

(a) that no effective tests of this type were conducted;

(b) that the number ordered is too large for our requirements; and

(c) that orders were not placed on the Continent of Europe.

(3) In general—

(a) that Mechanical Engineers were not consulted in drawing up the design and that, when consulted later, they were of the opinion that it did not fit in with Indian requirements;

[Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar]

(b) that Government had to incur considerable expenditure on deputing experts to America to investigate this question; and

(c) that a large number of locomotives of this type which had arrived in India, are idling as being unsuitable.

3. The recent orders for locomotives include 300 broad gauge WP type with one firm in the U. S. A. and two firms in Canada; 20 metre gauge YP type engines with one firm in the U. S. A.; and 150 metre gauge YG type with two firms in the U. S. A.

4. The WP type was evolved by the Railway Board in 1946 as an Express Passenger locomotive designed to burn inferior grade coal, with a tractive effort almost exactly that of an older type with a heavier axle load. As a first step, orders were placed for producing 16 locomotives of this type as prototypes for trials in India. Owing to the inability of the U.K. Manufacturers to produce these prototypes quickly, the order was transferred to a firm in the U. S. A. The first of these locomotives arrived in India in October 1947, and was put immediately through tests which, besides the usual ones, included boiler performance, fuel consumption with varying loads and on varying gradients, oscillation and hunting. The locomotive was also tested under "worn condition". The results were examined in the Central Standards Office for Railways and by the Railway Board, and the design was finalised in consultation with our Consulting Engineers, a British firm, whose expert personally visited India for the purpose. The WP type was also examined by the Locomotive Standards Committee, who raised no major objection. Whatever modifications were considered necessary as a result of the tests were incorporated in the final design before bulk orders were placed.

5. The WP locomotive has an axle load of 18·5 tons as against the axle load of 19·8 tons for the XC type Pacific locomotive with the same tractive effort which has been in use in this country. The total static plus hammer blow loads under the driving wheels total 12·4 tons for this type of engine as against 14·5 tons for the XC type, which means a reduction of 15 per cent. We have at present in use in India for goods traffic a certain number of locomotives of the XE type with an axle load of over 22 tons. The WP design is therefore very much lighter than a number of types which we have in the country including even the type in use with the same tractive power. This locomotive is considered safe for use on 80 lb. track, and most of our main lines are laid with 90 lb. rails and some sections with even heavier rails, namely, 100 lb. and 115 lb. The factor ruling the weight and type of engine that can run on any track is not the type of the sleeper on which the track is laid but the weight and type of the rail. The statement that the new WP engines are too heavy for the track has therefore no justification. Reference has also been made in the criticisms to the engineering works in progress in the Ghats near Bombay. These works have been undertaken as measures of safety and have nothing to do with the WP engine. I may mention that the WP engine has passed over the Ghats on the existing track on its journey from Bombay to Bhusaval.

6. I have already mentioned that, before the bulk order for WP engines was placed, extensive tests were conducted on the prototypes and the results analysed in consultation with the Consulting Engineers. The performance of the WP prototypes was so good that Railway Administrations specially asked for them. The 16 engines are operating on the E.I., G.I.P. and B.B. & C.I. Railways, working Mail and Express links very satisfactorily. The General Managers of all the three Railways have throughout expressed satisfaction at

the performance of these engines, with the exception of minor defects, steps to rectify which have already been taken in the bulk orders. In view of the apprehensions voiced in the House, I discussed the matter on the 24th with the General Managers of the three Railways on which these locomotives are now in use—who happened to be here for another conference—and they have since submitted to me written reports stating they are fully satisfied with the suitability and performance of these locomotives.

7. The provision of bar frames has come in for severe criticism on the ground that our Workshops are not equipped for undertaking repairs on them. It is correct that we have not yet done this kind of work, but there should be no difficulty in obtaining at once the necessary equipment for doing it and in training the staff for it in a short time. Steps are being taken towards this end. Workshop adjustments of this nature are inevitable in the adoption of any change in design. Every country in the world except the U.K. has adopted the bar frame and this design has been regarded by the Consulting Engineers, a British firm, as an improvement on the plate frame.

8. The reference to heavier loads in the design of the engine is probably to the WG type which is a goods locomotive with a bar frame. It is not dissimilar to the American and Canadian built engines which were imported during the war. The reason for evolving this new type was that the boiler design was the same as that for the WP and therefore more suitable for the use of inferior grade coal. The WP and WG boiler being similar, a greater degree of interchangeability and standardisation will be achieved, and this is expected to assist considerably in maintenance.

9. I have also already mentioned that, in drawing up the design of the WP engines, the Locomotive Standards Committee consisting of Chief Mechanical Engineers of Railways were consulted, and such minor points raised by them were considered by the Railway Board in consultation with the Consulting Engineers. But before placing bulk orders for the WG type, "trial before purchase" was not regarded as necessary. The British firm of Consulting Engineers, who examined the proposals, were however fully consulted. The WG is a high tractive effort, but slower speed, locomotive of a wheel arrangement known as 2-8-2 and not of the Pacific or 4-6-2 type. The 2-8-2 type is inherently one which is not sensitive to developing hunting or other dangerous tendencies. It was on the considered advice of our Consulting Engineers that a bulk order for 100 WG locomotives was placed with a firm of loco manufacturers in the U.K.

10. The number of locomotives becoming overage, and due replacement by March 1950 is about 1,470 and by February 1948 orders had been placed to cover only 489. It was necessary to bridge the large gap and, after investigation by the Chief Commissioner of Railways, orders were placed for an additional 390. Including these, the total orders placed so far cover only 879 locomotives, against the replacement requirements of about 1,470 by March 1950. The fear expressed that the orders so far placed by the Railway Board for locomotives are in excess of our requirements is therefore unfounded.

11. Our need for locomotives is urgent. The deciding factor in placing orders has been the price, delivery dates and the willingness of the manufacturers to produce in accordance with Indian designs. Orders for these locomotives were placed in the U. S. A. and Canada as the locomotive builders in these countries offered terms most suitable to us.

12. The criticism that Government had to incur expenditure in sending experts to America to investigate this question of design of locomotives is not correct. No expert has been sent out to America for this purpose.

[Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar]

13. Of the WP locomotives, so far only the 10 prototype engines have reached India. Therefore, there is no question of locomotives idling because they are "unsuitable". The first batch of the 300 WP locomotives is to be ready ex-Works in February/March 1949, and all the 300 should be in service on Indian Railways by the end of 1949.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi (U. P: General): Sir, on a point of personal explanation...

Mr. Chairman: No quesions now.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: I do not want to ask any question, but I only wanted to say a few words by way of personal explanation.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. The honourable member will remember that this Statement has been made in response to the request of the House that a statement might be made on the question. Therefore no questions arise on this Statement. Copies of the Statement will be distributed immediately to the honourable members.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

BUDGET OF DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister of Works, Mines and Power): Sir, I beg to lay on the table the budget* of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the years 1948-49 and 1949-50 under sub-section (3) of section 44 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): This also may be circulated to the Members.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is being done.

HINDU MARRIAGES VALIDITY BILL

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): I move:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide that marriages between Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and their different castes and sub-castes are valid, be extended upto the 25th March, 1949."

The date given here on the order parper is 11th March, but with your permission I would like to amend it to 25th March as the honourable the Law Minister will be out of Delhi and he will not be able to devote much time to it. Therefore I move the motion with this amendment.

I want to say that I am very anxious that this Bill may be put before this House this session and therefore I request the honourable the Law Minister and the authorities in charge of this Bill to kindly see that the Select Committee makes its Report by the 25th March. I also beg the House to supplement my request to the authorities so that, as the Bill is a very important one, it may be passed this session.

Shri R. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General): The matter is entirely in the hands of the Select Committee. What has the House to do in this? My honourable Friend should request the Select Committee to expedite their Report and I think they will be pleased to do it.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I want an extension of the date. I want to urge that it is my anxiety that the Law Minister should see that the report is made in time and the House should support me in this.

*Not printed in the day's Debate. A copy placed in the Library of the House —*ofDEd*

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide that marriages between Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and their different castes and sub-castes are valid, be extended upto the 25th March, 1949."

The motion was adopted.

HINDU CODE--contd.

Mr. Chairman: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the Hindu Code.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Mr. Chairman, when this House adjourned on Friday afternoon the name of Shri Krishna was on my lips I was saying that even so far as the highest goal of human existance is concerned man and woman have been placed on an absolute footing of equality by Shri Krishna in the *Gita*. The *Gita* to the Hindus is the sacred *smriti*, the supreme *shastra*, the quintessence of all philosophy and all religion. In that, very well-known verse, Shri Krishna says—

"Streeyo vaishyastatha sudrastepi yanti paramgatim."

Women, *Vaishyas* and the *Shudras* who were apparently the down trodden and the suppressed classes or castes of that age, even they—Krishna says—are on a par, on a footing of equality, with Brahmans and the others.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi (Madras: General): You are right, Mr. Kamath.

Shri H. V. Kamath: So far as *moksha* and the *paragati* are concerned, there is absolutely no bar to the attainment of the same by women. I am sorry that at the present day there are some men, and even certain *swamis*—so called religious or spiritual heads—who believe that man and woman should be placed on an unequal footing. I agree that they are not identical in all respects...

Maulana Hasrat Mohani (U. P.: General): How are they equal?

Shri H. V. Kamath: But to say that they are unequal and to buttress that argument by fantastic reasons is to my mind shocking. The other day I had the good-luck—or the ill-luck—of listening to a *swami* saying that man and woman are unequal. And, pray, what were the reasons for that statement? He said—fantastic, the House will agree—he said that man grows a moustache and women does not. I am not joking, Sir, many of my friends were present at the meeting which the *swami* addressed, and he said it in all earnestness, in all seriousness, that man grows a moustache, woman cannot grow a moustache, and the woman at most can bear three, four or five children in a year.

An Hon'ourable Member: In a year?

Shri H. V. Kamath: Depending upon whether she produces triplets, quadruplets or quintuplets. Sir, he went on to say that man, however is potentially capable of being the father of a hundred or more children. This, Sir, to my mind is a fantastic argument.

When we talk of equality of man and woman, we regard that on a spiritual basis which has been envisaged again by Shri Krishna in the Gita. He says:

"Sarvabhutasthamatmanam sarvabhutani chatmani."

That is the basis, that is the yardstick, that is the measuring rod for equality of human beings or between man and woman.

"Yo mam pashyati sarvatra
sarvam cha mayi pashyati."

This is the test, this is the criterion, this is the standard, this is the yardstick for equality of human beings, whether high or low, rich or poor, man or woman.

[Shri H. V. Kamath]

Well, Sir, I do not subscribe to that notion of inequality propounded by the *swami*. On the other hand, I also do not believe that woman—as some of them do today—attain equality with men by taking to smoking and drinking. That again, Sir, is something which is to be deprecated if by that they seek equality with man. Nor do I subscribe to the progressive conception of woman—progressive in the Western sense—who, perhaps in imitation of the West and so trying to be progressive, take to ball-room dancing and other Western habits. This, Sir, is also to my mind no way of securing equality with man.

Shrimati Purnima Banerjee (U. P.: General): It is not included in the Hindu Code. Does she dance alone without a partner?

Shri H. V. Kamath: I know that but we are talking of the equality of man and woman. And here, Sir, our great savant and philosopher, Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan who is an authority on Hindu *dharma* and Hindu way of life, says:

"The modern women, if I may say so, is losing her self-respect. She does not respect her own individuality and uniquenses, but is paying an unconscious tribute to man by trying to imitate him. She is fast becoming masculine and mechanical."

Shri R. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General): What about the modern man?

Shri H. V. Kamath: I hope, Sir, our women will take this to heart and will not undertake such attempts at equality with man.

Shreemati Annie Mascarene (Travancore State): May I ask the question whether modern man is in any way better than that?

Shri H. V. Kamath: That is for women to answer.

Well, Sir, when I therefore talk of equality between man and woman I have before me the historical examples of Sita, Savitri, Damayanti, Gargi, Maitreyi and Ubhayabharati. Will you permit me to read from our own ancient history about these women and the place these women occupied in our ancient Vedic times and even later, on which so many of our opponents to the Hindu Code depend today? It is said that in the Vedic and Upanishadic age, woman occupied a very high place in society. Among the exceptional women of Upanishadic times the name of Maitreyi stands out in bold relief. The lustre of her spiritual mind illumines the world even today. For sheer intellectual acumen two women stand out in singular brilliance. An all-India religious conference took place—it has been the tradition in this country to have conferences of all sorts and religious conferences were not an exception—an all-India religious conference took place in the pre-historic age and another in the post-Buddhistic age. They had been summoned not for mere academic debate but for the establishment of principles that should govern the spiritual life of the nation. The former was championed by the sage Yagnavalkya, the same as our law-giver, and the latter by the great Shankarcharya. The first conference, Yagnavalkya's conference, was convened by King Janaka, the great Janaka, the *karma yogi*, when the sages assembled from all quarters of India, from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari and I suppose from Khyber to Cherapunji, are silenced. Gargi boldly rises on behalf of the women, championing the cause of the humiliated. That, Sir, is the ideal towards which our women ought to be progressing and which they will, I hope, attain ere long. Gargi is defeated, but only after putting up a tough fight.

In a second Conference, Sankara Acharya's Conference, the task of presiding over this momentous meeting falls upon Mandanamishra's wife, Ubhayabharati. Now, it is very important—and I would like my women friends to

mark this—that in the history of the world there is not a single instance of a woman being chosen as a judge of an important meeting and making such an exceptional demand on her intellectual ability as well as intagrity. She gives—Ubhaya Bharathi—gives the verdict in favour of Shankaracharya. (*Honourable Members*: Hear, hear.) With the result that her husband becomes a monk and a disciple of his opponent, whose view henceforward becomes acknowledged as the paramount creed of the country. "In fact", the author says—I am reading from the "Cultural Heritage of India" published by the Ramakrishna Mission—"it is not the original authors"—mark these words 'it is not the original authors'—"with the emancipated mind of creative thinkers but the mechanically minded commentators"—Tikakars. not the *smritikars*, but those who wrote *tikas*—"who worked for the suppression of the rights of women, whom they bluntly assumed to be in league with ignorance and illusion."

Now, Sir, many of our friends who are opposing this measure,—I do not mean in the House but those who are outside—they take their stand on Dharma. The other day I posed this question, "What is Dharma?". One of the pamphlets issued by the Anti-Hindu Code Committee presumes to give us some advice, and what is that? They quote the old sloka—I do not remember exactly where it occurs—but the Panchathantra quotes it:

"Nasasabha Yatra na Santi vriddhah,

vriddhnateya na vadanti dharmam."

That is not a Sabha or Assembly where there are no vriddhahs.

An Honourable Member: But we have so many of them here!

Shri H. V. Kamath: That man is not a vriddhah who does not talk of Dharma. I, Sir, am sorry that our friends of this Anti-Hindu Code Committee have not exactly understood the meaning of "vriddhah"—who is a vridhah and who is not. In the Mahabharata there is a story: Saraswata Muni, a young boy of twelve, when there was famine in the country and all the old rishis who were fasting and doing penance on the shores of the Saraswati river fled for fear of their lives—they wanted to save their lives—this young boy at that time stuck to his post and his mother Saraswati fed him on fish in the morning, fish at noon and fish at night—that is why Saraswat Brahmins even today eat fish. This Brahmin boy, inspite of the famine, stuck to his post. The story goes on to say that the famine raged for many years in the land—twelve years—but our young boy, Saraswat Muni—the progenitor of all Saraswata in the world—continued to stay. After the famine was over, the rishis who had fled for their lives started coming back in driblets, one after another, to the shores of the Saraswati river to resume their tapasya interrupted by the famine and they tried to boss over this young boy of 24. He was 12 when the famine started, and he was 24 when the famine ended. They started bossing over him. They said, "You sit at our feet; take instructions from us; learn from us; become our disciple." He said, "Fie on you. Shame on you. You pretend to be *munis*, *rishis*, *tapasivis*, and you fly for your lives; you fly for fear of death. You have got to sit at my feet and learn from me." Thus said the young man of 20 to those old men of 70 and 80. The Mahabharata goes on to say:

"Na tena vridho bhavati yenasya palitam shirah

yo vai yuvapyadhyanastam devah sthaviram viduh."

(A man is not a vriddha merely by virtue of his grey hair. Even a youth who has studied well is called a wise man by the gods.)

That man is a *vriddhah* who has attained *vriddhi*. Actually the word "vriddhah" is wrongly translated as old. It means that man who has attained *vriddhi*, you call it, wisdom, growth, development—that is vridhi...Here our friends say:

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"Na sa sabha yatra na santi vriddhah—
Vriddha na te ye na vadanti dharmam."

I think that even in that sense of "vriddhi" or wisdom, there are a number of my friends here who will live up to that standard. But my friends have stopped short of quoting the whole *shloka*. They start by saying:

"Na sa sabha yatra na santi vridhah
Vriddha na te yé na vadanti dharmam."

But what is Dharam? The sloka goes on to say later on what is *Dharma*. These fellows conveniently omit that portion of the sloka. The sloka goes on to say:

"Dharmah sa na yatra na satyamasti"

That is not *Dharam* where there is no *satya*. Therefore, my quarrel with those who take their stand on *dharma* is that they have not understood what is Hindu *Dharma*.

I wil again crave your indulgence to tell the House what our great savant and philosopher, Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan has to say on this subject, especially Hindu Dharma: He tells us:

"There has been no such thing as a uniform stationary, unalterable Hinduism whether in point of belief or practice. Hinduism is a movement; not a position; a process, not a result; a growing tradition, not a fixed revelation. Its past history encourages us to believe that it will be found equal to any emergency that the future may throw up, whether on the field of thought or of history. . . ."

We are happy that today the prediction is coming true. It was Swami Vivekananda who said fifty years ago that Vedanta will become the religion of humarity—the vedanta which has been given to the world by our seers, *rishis* and *munis*. Radhakrishnam goes on to say:

"We are beginning to look upon our ancient faith with fresh eyes. We feel that our society is in a condition of unstable equilibrium. There is much wood that is dead and diseased that has to be cleared away. Leaders of Hindu thought and practice."

I hope, Sir, that most of our friends here are in their own way leaders of Hindu thought and practice, I am sure of that—

"Leaders of Hindu thought and practice are convinced that the times require, not a surrender of the basic principles of Hinduism, but a restatement of them with special reference to the needs of a more complex and mobil social order.

'Such an attempt', he says, "will only be the repetition of a process which has occurred a number of times in the history of Hinduism. The work of readjustment is in process. Growth is slow when roots are deep. But those who light a little candle in the darkness' will help to make the whole sky aflame."

I would commend this statement of the Hindu *Dharma* to those of my friends who oppose the Bill, even the consideration of the Bill, on grounds of *Dharma*. Who does not know and who does not recollect that this cry of '*Dharma* in danger' or 'Society in danger' was raised by those that wanted to block every reform of Society attempted in the past? Is it not a fact that twenty-five years ago, when the movement against asprishyata (अस्पृश्यत) untouchability was started, some of our men, even high-class orthodox Hindus, said that Hinduism was in danger, social order was in danger and that disruption of society was coming? Yet, did we not persist in that much-needed reform? Did we not help to accelerate the evolution of Hindu society on an egatitarian basis? As a culmination of these attempts have not we adopted an Article in the draft Constitution prohibiting untouchability and banning it in any shape or form? If we could do that in spite of what the orthodox pandits claim for Hindu *Dharma*, surely I do not see any reason why we should not proceed to legislate or provide for the regulation of social relations and personal law.

Again, Sir, honourable Members will recollect the opposition that was started against the Sarda Act, which tabooed child-marriage, on the ground that Hindu *Dharma* was in danger and that Hindu religion and Hindu society were in danger. In the last century when the custom of sati, cremation of the widow with her husband, was sought to be abolished, these same reactionaries who block the road to progress denounced the attempt stating that the Hindu Dharma sanctioned sati and that it granted the highest salvation to women and therefore it should be continued. In spite of their agitation and obstruction, much-needed reforms like that were put through.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava said the other day that this Bill had not reached the rural population and that the rustics, the people in rural areas have not seen or read or considered it. He expressed anxiety to know their reactions to the Bill, before it was proceeded with in this House. When he said so, he forgot the fact that some of the Bills he himself had introduced had not been seen by the peasants of his own Hissar. I wonder if on his advice we are going to circulate copies of our Bills to every village and hamlet and homestead in the country.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi (U. P.: General): Peasants do not count these days.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I am astonished to hear from Mr. Tyagi that peasants do not count in these days. If they do not count, who does?

Honourable Members: You.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I am indeed grateful for the compliment. I hope, Sir, in the near future, nor merely I, but all my friends in the House will count equally with me.

Sir, while I have every sympathy with certain observations made by Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava, I do not think that his opposition to the Hindu Code Bill on the ground that there has been no circulation or proper publication among the people affected, can stand scrutiny. That argument is absolutely untenable. In that way, every Bill sought to be passed here, which affects the lives of millions, would have to be sent to them, in order that they may register their approval or disapproval of the same.

Now, Sir, this vexed question of equality, I hope I have disposed of in a satisfactory manner. Sir, men and women are equal on a spiritual basis. The Gita, the Smrities and Sri Krishna himself have preached this doctrine of equality.

Coming, Sir to the question of property, property has been, according to most philosophers, political, social or otherwise, the root of almost all evil in the world. In this regard I subscribe to the proposition made by Seth Govindass—he is not in the House now—that it would be best if private property were abolished. Even litigation will decrease a good deal if this is done. One of our greatest law-givers and statesmen of ancient times—not Manu or Yagnyavalkya—but a warrior statesman, Bheeshma Pitamaha has expounded his doctrine in two *parvas* of *Maha-Bharatha*, viz., *Shanti Parva* and *Anusasanika Parva*. There he tells Yudhistira about property: *akinchanasya shuddhasya na tulyamihia lakshyaye akinchanyamcha rajyamcha tulaya samatolayam atyarichyat: daridryam rajyadapi guradhikam nityodvignohi dhanavan mrityorasyagato yatha.* He tells Yudhistira that this kingdom and voluntary poverty he has weighed in the balance. He says that this *akinchanya* voluntary poverty has proved more than the other. Because, he said, *nityo nityodvignohi dhanavan mrityorasyagato yatha.* The nearest equivalent to this in English is "Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown". If a man has property he is afraid of death.

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I am in agreement with Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava when he says that a wife and husband should become one not merely in love, but in property as well. Sometimes it happens that love is their only property: Husband and wife may have no property at all. Their only property may be their mutual love. But, Sir, we should face the stark reality of life to-day. It was, however, refreshing to hear Pandit Bhargava's personal experience in this respect. This world would be a happier place to live in, if men and women, husbands and wives are in the same happy position as Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and his wife are. There are, however, hundreds of cases today where the relations between the wife and husband are not as happy as they should be, or as we wish them to be. (*Interruption*) I am speaking, Sir, from facts narrated to me by friends like my honourable friend, Mr. B. Das and I have come in possession of these facts, as told to me by my honourable friends, who have got experience in this direction.

Our Hindu Code Bill provides in this respect that a woman should be entitled to an absolute right in her property. In the Vedic ages and in the ancient ages, upon which our opponents of Dharma and the Hindu Code Bill take their stand, it was only in medieval times, when Hinduism was on the decline that women's rights to property came to be restricted—in the Vedic period the social position of women was generally high.

Mr. Chairman: There are a number of speakers, who want to speak. I appeal to the honourable Member kindly to be as short as possible.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I will try to be short, but I am afraid, the subject is so vast that it is difficult to be short.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister of Law): There will be plenty of occasion for Mr. Kamath to speak. There are at least 130 sections.

Shri H. V. Kamath: But I do not want to let some things remain unsaid today. Now in the Vedic period, I was saying that the social position of the women was high. An unmarried daughter was offered a share in her father's property, and the married daughter was given no interest therein, but she got ample dowry at the time of her marriage. So the argument advanced by my honourable friend, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, in this respect, I think, may be considered by the House and by the honourable Minister sympathetically; because fundamentally being opposed to property myself, I do not think that any purpose would be gained by making the property position worse than it is today: Dr. Ambedkar referred to an instance of the property of a Hindu family consisting of 12 sons and one daughter. That is very well for him to quote that instance, but may I quote the other instance where there are 12 daughters and one son. What will happen if the Hindu Code Bill as it stands is applied in this case? The family property will have to be divided among all the daughters and one son. The son will be left in a little corner of the house, and if the daughters get married, they have got the right to bring their husbands and they have the right to dispose of the portion of the House to a stranger. Therefore the one little son like a little mouse will creep here and there and he would not have even a comfortable cosy corner to live in.

Therefore, Sir, this question of property is a very vexed question and we might consider whether a daughter instead of getting the property herself, whether she might not be allowed an equivalent share of the property in cash or jewellery, or whatever she might choose to have, as it was done in ancient times and in Vedic times. There was no property share at the time of marriage but she was given ample dowry in lieu of the share of the property.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Chairman (Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao) in the Chair.

Mr. Chairman: Before we begin the debate, I would like to make a suggestion. There are about 25 names on the list. This is a very important measure and as many speakers as possible would like to give their views on the Code. Therefore, I would request honourable Members to be as brief as possible and refer only to the relevant points for or against the Bill.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): Sir, my name also may be included in the list.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): I did not know that I had to send in my name; I thought I would catch the eye of the Speaker.

Mr. Chairman: That is why I am telling honourable members to be as brief as possible and refer only to the salient points for or against the Bill. Members who want to speak may kindly send chits.

Mr. Tajamul Husain (Bihar: Muslim): May I know, Sir, whether my name is in the list? I spoke to the Deputy Speaker yesterday on Friday last.

Mr. Chairman: No harm in sending a fresh slip.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, before I resume the thread of my little speech, I may assure you that I shall take much less time than my honourable friend, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava did.

Mr. Chairman: You have already taken an hour.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I said less time than my honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava.

I was speaking about property: the basis for the allotment of property, was the principle which was expressed by Kanwa after he bade farewell to Shakuntala. Kanwa said:

"Artho hi kanya parakiya eva tamadya sampreshya parigrahituh jato mamayam vishadah prakamam pratyarpitaryasa ivantaratmo."

The first line, *"Artho hi kanya"* does not mean, as has been literally translated, that a girl is somebody else's property. It means that a girl separates herself from the father's home when she gets married. It was on this basis that she goes into another household that in olden times, Vedic and later times, that a daughter was given no interest in the property, but ample dowry was given. Again, in the Vedic and later Smriti times, only when a father had no son, he appointed his daughter as the Putrika and such a daughter was equal to the son. This principle can very well be considered by our new law makers. They may try to incorporate the gist of this prinoiple in the Code.

I wish agricultural property were completely excluded as it has been already excluded so far as the Governors' provinces are concerned. I refer to Part VII Chapter I. Section 94 says: "This Part shall not apply to agricultural land in Governors' Provinces;" Already, there is a cry against the fragmentation of land. We may hasten slowly in this regard so that this may not lead to further aggravation of this evil. As a matter of fact, if the entire land is nationalised, then no difficulty will arise; so long as this question is hanging fire and is not finally settled, we may decide to exclude agricultural

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land not merely in the Governors' provinces, but also in the Centrally administered areas from the operation of this Part.

Now, I come to the great question which has agitated humanity from the dawn of time: I mean that of marriage and divorce. On this question, the principle that we should go by, that should be accepted in legislating on this subject must be, to my mind, "Marriage should he easy, but divorce difficult." I think if this sound rule were adopted for law making, it would solve many of our troubles.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man (East Punjab: Sikh): In your case, marriage is more difficult than divorce.

Shri H. V. Kamath: There are always exceptions to a rule; I suppose I am one of them.

If I may be allowed to quote a recent historic instance, der Feuhrer Herr Hitler in Germany, when he fought the election in 1932, one of his election slogans was, "a job for every German man and a husband for every German woman". This slogan brought him, I understand, millions of women's votes, when he promised a husband for every German woman. This proves to the hilt the principle that I have sought to place before you that marriage should be easy and divorce difficult. My honourable Friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava; the other day, while speaking on this subject referred to this and said that there are usages and customs in various parts of the country according to which divorce could be effected. There is even this simplest custom, I am told, according to which the man says 'Talak' three times and the wife is divorced. It may be that or some such custom; I do not know; that is why I said, I am told. I personally think that divorce should not be easy. One of the modern States, Soviet Russia, at its inception in the early twenties of this century, made marriage as well as divorce equally easy. But, by experience they have learnt that family as a social unit has got to be preserved and strengthened even in a communist State and therefore, now, though marriage is easy, divorce is next to impossible. I therefore think, however, much I am inclined to agree with Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava that certain usages and customs must be given currency and must be kept alive, as regards divorce, I think that the procedure adopted must be very difficult, so that, the family as a social unit may be strengthened and preserved.

There is one more observation that I would like to make on this subject. There are instances, Sir, where due to certain causes, a dissolution of marriage may not be quite desirable or may not even be agreed to by one of the spouses: by the husband or by the wife. In such cases, where the wife agrees that the husband may marry another wife, herself also living in the same or another house, I do not see any reason why, in spite of the reasons mentioned here, permission should not be granted to either of the spouses to marry when the other consents, without dissolution of marriage. In Delhi, we are aware of one notability who has got several wives living at the same time, though perhaps in different houses.

An Honourable Member: Who is that?

Shri H. V. Kamath: No names here please.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: I have not been able to understand; does my honourable friend agree with polyandry?

Shri H. V. Kamath: I will only say that.....

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Only an unmarried man can say so.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sometimes, where a couple has been married for a long time, the Hindu mind cannot reconcile itself to the breaking of marriage ties with the wife even though the purpose of marriage is being frustrated. Therefore from the standpoint of love and humanity the new Code should provide, in my mind that on such an occasion a husband can get permission from his wife to marry another wife, and if she consents then the Court should not stand in the way. But the ideal of marriage as has been stated by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava should be one in property and love. I shall go further and say that there should be two minds with but a single thought, two hearts that beat as one.

Shrimati Hansa Metha (Bombay: General): In Polygamy there will be more than two hearts.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I am not against polyandry if the husband does not mind it.

Shrimati Purnima Banerjee: Very liberal!

Shri H. V. Kamath: I take my stand on the principle of equality and I go to the extreme limit for both man and woman. It has been a regretable incident or development of our history—our long and ancient Hindu history—that whatever rights women enjoyed in the early Aryan Age—the Vedic, Upinasbad and Smriti age—these rights fell into disuse and were not given effect to in the later medieval age. I hope that this Code will so work that women, whose paradise was lost in the dark medieval age, paradise they will regain in the modern age.

I have received a little warning from a friend outside, telling me in the name of God, in the name of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, in the name of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, please do not vote for this Bill. That very argument, I think, very well applies to a vote in favour of the Bill. I can say.....

Shri B. L. Sondhi (East Punjab: General): Is that friend male or female?

Shri H. V. Kamath: I can say, I make bold to say that in the name of God who has created man and women equal; in the name of the Mahatma, the Father of the Nation, who stood for the complete equality of man and woman; in the name of Netaji Shbhas Chandra Bose, who sought and accomplished the complete emancipation of man and woman to the extent of calling women to battle if need be; in the name of God, in the name of Gandhi, in the name of Subhas, I think this Bill is a forward measure which will lead to the greater glory of Hindu society.

I have only one more remark to make. My honourable Friend, Dr. Ambedkar, said the other day in his peroration that either repair betimes or perish. We have to repair. Indeed we are repairing. I think the time has well-nigh come when, if we do not repair, then society will be rent in twain. A stitch in time will always save nine: otherwise the rent will grow more and more till society will be rent in twain.

I began, Sir, on Friday, the day before *Maha Shivaratri* and I am closing my brief remarks on the day after *Maha Shivaratri*. This day is sacred to the memory of one of the great women of the age—Mahasati Ma Kasturba and it is sacred to the memory of another great man—Swami Dayananda Saraswati. I hope their spirits—the spirits of Ma Kasturba and Swami Dayananda Saraswati—will inspire us in our work and help us in our difficult task. It is my hope and prayer to God that man and woman may travel together as

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pilgrims of life, dedicating themselves and consecrating their lives to the achievement of *artha* and *kama*, the *artha* and *kama* which are rooted in *Dharma* and which lead to the goal of *moksha*, the liberation from bondage, the goal of the Living God, in whom we live and move and have our being, and in whom all men, all women, all Creation, are equal, free and divine.

हरिओ३म् तत्सत् । ब्रह्मार्पणमस्तु

Mr. Nazirudin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): May I point out that I am getting more and more like an anachronism? I have undertaken the task of opposing the original motion but I have not spoken up till now. It may be that at the proper time I will be squeezed out. There are too many speakers to come. To-morrow at four o'clock I understand the closure motion will be put.

Mr. Chairman: It is impossible to squeeze out Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad. The honourable Member will have a chance. Mr. Jhunjhunwala.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bihar: General): I would like to speak at another time.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: He either speaks now or he does not. According to the rules, if a Member is asked to speak, he must speak; otherwise, he looses the chance to speak on the subject.

Mr. Chairman: Babu Ramnarayan Singh.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity you have so kindly given me today to do my part to oppose the obnoxious measure which has come on the floor of the House for discussion. Sir, at the outset I must tell the House that I am not an orthodox man.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: You are not orthodox. I know you are not!

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: I am one of those who wants that all that is old must be broken without delay. But everything must be done with wisdom. When a thing is to be done, wisdom demands that we should judge when it is to be done and how it is to be done. I tell my honourable Friend Dr. Ambedkar that I am one of his admirers. I feel that he is the pride of the country: he is my pride also. But I do not understand why such a learned man is engaged in such a useless and pernicious job. Sir, this is a government measure. I do not know what they understand by law. Law is nothing but the will of the people expressed in terms of law. I am sorry that the Government does not understand what is law. I say that a majority of the people of this country feel that this measure should not have come on the floor of this House.....

An Honourable Member: No.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Take a plebiscite and you will find it.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: We are here representing them.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Apparently it appears that there is a measure called the Hindu Code Bill and a discussion is going on in this House but in fact a conspiracy is being hatched to disrupt the Hindu society. I feel that it is something like a preparation to invade the Hindu society. Nobody can say how long this Hindu Society has lived and flourished in this world. I can say that since the very creation of the world, since the creation of the sun and the moon, since the very creation of the human race the Hindu society has lived and flourished and during all these periods there have been innumer-

able invasions of all descriptions against this Hindu society, Buddha came first. At one time it looked that Hindu Society would be no more but the world Guru Sankaracharya came and exported Buddhism from this country and re-established the Hindu society. Then Islam came. That was also an invasion like Buddhism but it was also a military one but I must say that Islam also failed in this country.....

Dr. Mono Mohan Das (West Bengal: General): Islam has become the Saviour and you have taken the protection of Islam.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Islam could not become the saviour but Islam too failed in this country. According to Islam there is no caste system in the Koran but some sort of caste system developed among those who followed Islam. In the same way Jainism, Sikhism all came in and originally they were all invasions against Hinduism but in course of time they became tolerant and tried to develop and flourish side by side with the Hindu society and religion. This time this is also a sort of invasion but this invasion is a democratic one, though the force behind it, is a dictatorial one.

Some of my friends have already said that there has been a discussion in this House as regards the authority of this House to enact this measure. It is true and I feel confident that this House is not competent to enact a measure of this kind. This is not a constituent assembly even.....

An Honourable Member: What is it?

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: It is a part of the constituent assembly. A large number of members of this House either by order or by convention have been asked not to attend this Assembly.....

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: With that the House is not directly concerned. The Speaker has already said that that is not a matter for the House.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Whatever may be the ruling of the Speaker I am not talking against that. I bow to the ruling of the Speaker but I am bound to speak for the world about the competency or authority of this House to enact this measure. The mandate of the country to the Assembly is to frame the constitution of the country. But so long as that constitution is not complete or has not come into force the Government must go on. It was by a hotchpotch agreement with the foreign rulers that this arrangement had been arrived at in order to pass the budget and any other important legislation necessary for the administration of the country. But such a measure like this against which there is a lot of hue and cry throughout this country should not have come before this House for discussion or enactment.

When I hear in this House as well as outside the cry about the equality of women with man I fail to understand it.....

Mr. Tajamul Husain: May I ask the honourable Member why he accepted membership on the select Committee when he is opposed to the constitution of this very honourable House.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: There are many people who are confounded. The measure was sent to the Select Committee. This means that the House accepted the principle of the measure but this does not mean that every member has accepted the measure or accepted the principle of the measure. There are so many principles involved in this measure that so far as the House is concerned nobody can say that it has accepted anything and everything.....

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: If it was sent to the Select Committee, it means that it accepts the principle.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: I was talking about the equality of man and woman According to our Shastras man is not complete; nor is woman complete. According to our Shastras woman is called Ardhangi and even so man is not complete.....

An Honourable Member: What is man called?

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Man is also half. I may tell you.....

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): Sir, it is impossible to speak in the House when an honourable member addresses it on an important measure like this and there are innumerable criticisms, and running commentaries, and laughter going on simultaneously. It is not in the interest of the dignity of the House. Members who do not like the speech may at least keep quiet so that those who want to listen may at least listen.

Mr. Chairman: Honourable Members will kindly allow the speaker to proceed.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Sir, I thank my honourable friend Pandit Maitra for the encouragement he has given me. I was talking about equality. So far as the purposes of the world are concerned and so far as the continuity of the human race is concerned there is no question of equality or inequality between man and woman. Nobody can compare the hand with the feet, whether the hand is more useful or the feet are more useful, whether this eye is more useful or that eye. Man and woman are one and nothing more than one. As regards law I tell my sisters throughout the country that law cannot help them. What can help everybody and also the womenfolk is love and nothing but love. Love between the pair is the only thing which can make the pair happy. Well, they may get the right of divorce. One woman may be divorced today; other women may be coming for—marriage the next day. Monogamy may mean many-gamy: you won't allow a man to marry a second wife. The first wife will be divorced and he will marry the second day. The third day he will divorce that wife also and on the fourth day he will marry again. The process will continue. So far as pure love is concerned for that I think character of the people is most important. We must realize that in this country the people lost their character first and then anything afterwards. So, whatever we have to do in this matter we have to regain our character. As I say that the importance of hand cannot be compared with the importance of feet, so the importance of man cannot be compared with the importance of woman. I can rather say one thing. According to our *shastra* they are the goddess Lakshmi—Women are called in our society *Lakshmi, Saraswati, Grihalakshmi*. They are anything and everything. If I may compare man with woman I can say woman is much more important in the world than man. I can explain this further. If we remove or kill all men from the world the world will still go on. (*An honourable Member*: 'Except one man.') Not even one man. I say if all the men in the world be killed, the world will still continue and the human race will continue. (*Honourable Members*. 'Question'). I can explain it. There are my friends who question my statement. Well, Sir, if you kill all men today there will be millions of men in the womb of the women. Women are therefore certainly more important so far as the world is concerned. But those who talk of equality between man and woman want really to separate woman from man. Instead of helping the pair to be happy they are really destructive. As I say their importance is there; they are the *Lakshmi*. But at the same time it is very difficult to compare man with woman. Nature has created man and woman. Their tasks are different, their duties are different and their functions are different. What is the use of comparing the two? No comparison can really stand in this case.

3 P.M.

My friends have talked about the provisions of the Bill. I shall touch only one or two points as regards the daughter's share in the father's property. First of all I was a son, then a brother, then a husband and then a father and so on. Not without exception, I cannot say, but I say that almost every Hindu father—I am also a Hindu father and I also have married my daughters here and there—every Hindu father is anxious to marry his daughter in a family which is superior in status, in wealth and in many other things to his own family. Now there is a talk of share of the daughter in the father's property. There have been jokes also. The daughter is respected in every way and is also given a share—you may call it a share— in the father's property by way of dowry and so on and so forth. When the question of share comes what will happen is this. Ordinarily if you come to my place as a guest I may show you hospitality as my friend or this and that. But if you come by way of right I do not think you will receive any hospitality from me. I tell my friends that law will not help anybody, as soon as the right for the daughter will be created in the father's property I think all question of love will go. My friend Mr. Kamath—although he suggested many things with which I do not agree—said one thing. Here is a family in which a man has got one daughter and two or three sons. The daughter will be married several miles away. The property may be small and after the marriage when the son-in-law, the *damad*, will be coming to his father-in-law's place for a share of the property, or as a share-holder, he will not be respected. Everything should develop in a proper manner and in a natural way. If this measure is enacted there may be a lot of complications and litigations and the principle of pure love will be killed in our society.

I therefore appeal to every Member in this House to consider the matter in a calm and quiet manner. As it has been suggested from several quarters in the House, and as I also said before, this House is not competent to enact the measure. How is it that they are so very anxious that this measure may be passed today? Why have not the courage to wait for a year or two? May I say they are afraid of the new elections?

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: No; not at all.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: The Hindu society has lived and flourished so long according to the same customs and same everything else. Then, heavens will not fall if we send the measure for circulation as my friend Mr. Naziruddin has stated. I appeal to each and every Member of the House to consider the measure in a calm manner. People may be afraid of the next elections, that we Congress people may not get votes. That question does not arise. We must be true to ourselves and to the constituency and people who have sent us.

So, I oppose this measure with all the emphasis at my command, and support the motion of my friend 'Pandit' Naziruddin Ahmad that the Bill may be circulated for public opinion.

Shri H. Siddaveerappa (Mysore State): I congratulate the honourable the Law Minister for the very lucid expression of the speech he gave while moving this Motion. Sir, a lot has been said that this measure vitally affects the Hindu society. I come from a part of this country, namely Mysore, where some of the fundamental things, this measure wants to introduce, are already in force. We have, for instance, got the law of adoption as also the law regarding the daughter's share, and several other things, though they are not on all fours with the present measure. But the principle is there. We have enacted a Bill as early as 1934, called the Hindu Women's Rights Regulation and for the last fourteen years that Bill is law in Mysore, but we have not found there

[Shri H. Siddaveerappa]

any general upheaval. There is not much litigation nor is there any disruption of the Hindu society as has been feared by some of the honourable Members here. As a matter of fact, by our experience we have come to understand that the measure which is now in force is not of the extent that is needed and another Committee has been formed with a view to see that there is further improvement in the existing measure.

It was said that the measure before the House affects the caste system or some other fundamental beliefs or principles of the Hindu society. Well, Sir, my reading of some of the Hindu literature is that if we study the Vedic period, that is from 2000-1400 B.C., and study the Hindu society then in existence, we do not see any of these four castes in the Hindu society then in existence. Every man born, according to his *guna* or *karma* had to go through all the *varnas* or *ashramas* in his life time. A boy until he attained the age of twenty, had to perform the household duties and obey his *guru* and do all the other acts that were assigned to him, and he was called a *shudra*. After the age of twenty he was allowed to be married and he had to take the responsibility of maintaining the family. Then, according to the duty that was imposed on him he was called a *vaishya*. After he enjoyed life for some time and after he reached the age of 40 or so, when there was need for every man to defend the State, he had to do the duty of a *kshatriya*. After he attained a particular age, say 60, when he had seen so much of life, and on account of his experience and learning, he undertakes the task of teaching the disciples and doing other duties of wisdom, and he was called a Brahmana, a man who has got the *guna* of *Brahman*.

Therefore, this caste system in this country originated in a different way, and developed in a different way. But today we understand that there are nearly 18,000 castes and a much larger number of sub-castes which have got different traditions, different customs and what not.

We find today that we are one so far as political unity is concerned. If we want to have any uniform standard of rules or any uniform standard of our laws, it is absolutely essential that there must be some Code which gives a certain standard. May be if necessary at the consideration stage we may consider which of the clauses are necessary and which are not necessary; but if we say there is no need at all for a Code, I do not think any of us, if we apply a little commonsense, can accept that position. We see in this country there are people who profess different beliefs—*Dwaita* and *Adwaita*. There are people who practise monogamy and polygamy and in some places there is polyandry also prevailing. Under these circumstances, is it not necessary for us to see that we have got a uniform code for purposes of inheritance, marriage and several other things? During the time of the Britishers we found that in the guise of religious neutrality or non-interference, they never cared to see that any evils in the Hindu society were wiped out; they never attempted any reform in that direction. As a matter of fact, when Warren Hastings was impeached by Burke, it is said that one of the charges levelled against him was that he used those caste codes for purposes of his personal aggrandizement. The Britisher saw that the caste system was ideally suited for his own advantage. Therefore he never interfered to bring about any needed reforms in the society. But that is no reason that at a time when we are free, we should not aim at bringing about this much-desired reform. Somebody said, we are proceeding further, why should we take up this measure so early as this and why should we not wait for some more time? My point is this: this reform was long overdue; it ought to have come much earlier but for the fact that we were a dependent nation and that we were not masters of own destiny. My submission is that it has not come a day too soon.

So many other objections were raised regarding the competency of this House etc. As a matter of fact, the honourable the learned Mover has given a clear exposition as to how we are competent to bring about this desired result; So I do not wish to take the time of the House especially as there are many other speakers.

With regard to the principle of divorce, it is in my opinion a very much debated point. It is a thing which really agitates a large number of people in the Hindu society. Whether it be sacramental marriage or any other form of marriage, I do not wish to see that there should be under any circumstances an indissoluble tie of marriage Instead of giving unfettered discretion to people, I would request the honourable the Mover to consider this point, namely, that, a time-limit may be imposed—say five years or three years, whichever is approved by this House—within which the married people may be able to round off their angularities, having time to study each other, and if inspite of it they are badly off, it may be necessary that the marriage tie will have to be snapped.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Marriage on probation, you mean?

Shri H. Siddaveerappa: Not marriage on probation, but before anybody can have the benefit or advantage or whatever you call it of divorce, a particular period should be prescribed within which no married couple may be allowed divorce.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: That is the English law. They have three years there.

Shri H. Siddaveerappa: Let us consider the experience in the Western countries; for instance, let us take America. We have the experience of a famous divorce court judge, Lindsay. Whenever anyone went to him for a divorce, he used to tell: "You people will live together for one or two months and then come to me again. Even inspite of it, if you feel that you must get yourself divorced then you may apply." He says that invariably his experience as a judge is that whenever people try to separate each other, it is because that they have not tried to understand each other. If there was occasion to judge each other, there may not be recourse to this extreme form of separation. Therefore, I suggest that some such period should be prescribed in regard to divorce.

Regarding the theory of fragmentation of property, we find that agricultural land is not at all affected by this measure. It is a good thing in itself

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab: General): It is affected, in Centrally Administered Areas.

Shri H. Siddaveerappa: No, it is not. Only the Centrally Administered Area is affected, which is a very small area. So far as this agricultural land is concerned, I think the time has come when we should undertake agrarian reform in the interests of our own agriculture and our own existence so far as food is concerned. Not only that, with regard to inheritance the time has come when we shall have to have some such thing as the law of primogeniture. In view of the fact that 90 per cent. of the people of this country are living in the villages and their property is mostly agricultural, and in view of the fact that this property of the 90 per cent. of the people is taken away from the operation of this Act, I believe the theory of fragmentation does not stand to logic or reasoning.

[Shri H. Siddaveerappa]

With regard to custom, some of my friends submitted that custom overrides law, therefore any custom having the sanction of law should be accepted. I think many of us, who have experience as lawyers, can easily see how custom conveniently comes in, handy to take away the effect of any benevolent law. I may give one instance. There is a provision in the Indian Penal Code under which if any girl is dedicated for an immoral purpose it is an offence. The marks of dedication are the tying of some beeds round the neck of the girl. Now the ingennity of a lawyer was able to invent the custom of tying of beeds and apply that custom even in cases where the dedication was done for immoral purposes. Apart from this, we also know how on account of custom litigation sets in and how enormous amounts are spent in it, at least it was so in the previous regime. People used to spend enormous amounts in getting a decision on any particular point and squander money over judges distinguishing between two different judgments. Today this Bill is so simple, so lucid, that without recourse to any lawyer, any man can for about four annas ascertain what his position is, with regard to law.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: He can manage everything with four annas, you mean?

Shri H. Siddaveerappa: It is quite possible. A day will come. We will have to fry for that also. As a matter of fact, we have been seeing how these judicial decisions affect some of the property rights and other things. A judge comes to one decision and that will be law for some time. Tomorrow they may find out some other law, some text or *smriti* or some such old document, and we will be told that this law is overruled, with the result that nothing is settled in Hindu law. As a matter of fact, we have been seeing under the British regime, for the last 150 years, there have been so many decisions after decisions, any number of them, and still they say nothing is settled in Hindu law. I want to ask when we will have a settled form of law wherein the ordinary man can understand what exactly is his position. As a matter of fact, when a creditor wants to give some money, he has to satisfy who are his heirs, who have shares and all that, with the result that on an agricultural land on which he can give Rs. 1,000 loan, he gives only Rs. 500 or so. Therefore, taken from any angle of view, I believe this is a very healthy measure, so I give my wholehearted support to it.

Mr. Chairman: The debate will continue tomorrow after Question Hour.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1948-49—RAILWAYS

Mr. Chairman: The House will now proceed with the demands for supplementary grants to be moved by the Honourable the Minister in charge of Railways.

Shri R. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General): Before the Minister proceeds with his motion, I want to ask if it is your desire that we should close before 5 o'clock and what time will be allowed to consider these supplementary grants extending to Rs. 19 crores. It will be most unfair to this House if for discussing these supplementary grants which are over and above the Budget sanctions the House is only allowed an hour and a half. I submit that sufficient time should be given to the House to discuss and scrutinise this Budget. I have seen these items; some of them are certainly most objectionable. I therefore plead and appeal to you to give sufficient time—tomorrow or the day after—to discuss this supplementary Budget.

Mr. Chairman: We have got other business set down for tomorrow and the day after. General discussion of the General Budget will have to be begun. No further time can be given for this subject. We can discuss these supplementary grants till 4-15 P.M. when we adjourn for the presentation of the General Budget at 5 P.M.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Then we may postpone consideration of this.

Mr. Chairman: There is no other time allotted for this. If we postpone this, it will upset the whole programme.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: It may be so. But I want to enter here my protest that you are devoting only 20 minutes for the discussion of a demand which involves as much as 19 crores.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): May I request that at least in future the business may be arranged more wisely, and with greater fairness and respect to the House.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (Bombay: General): May I suggest, Sir, that the discussion of the Hindu Code Bill may be postponed to a later date and tomorrow's time may be given to the discussion of this subject?

Mr. Chairman: All these points of view will be kept in mind.

Now the House will proceed to the Demands for Supplementary grants in respect of Railways.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Railways and Transport): Is it the wish of the House that I should move all these supplementary grants together or one by one?

Honourable Members: All together.

Mr. Chairman: The practice is that they are taken as moved and put to the House.

DEMAND NO. 1.—RAILWAY BOARD

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,62,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Railway Board' ".

DEMAND NO. 2.—AUDIT

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,25,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Audit' ".

DEMAND NO. 3.—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 13,05,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payament during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure' ".

DEMAND NO. 4.—WORKING EXPENSES—ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 33,34,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Administration' ".

DEMAND NO. 5.—WORKING EXPENSES—REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,42,96,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance'."

DEMAND NO. 6.—WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATING STAFF

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 24,88,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Operating Staff' ".

DEMAND NO. 7.—WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION (FUEL)

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,25,33,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)' ".

DEMAND NO. 9.—WORKING EXPENSES—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 63,22,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses' "

DEMAND NO. 10.—PAYMENTS TO INDIAN STATES AND COMPANIES

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,28,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'payments to Indian States and Companies'."

DEMAND NO. 11.—WORKING EXPENSES—APPROPRIATION TO DEPRECIATION FUND

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,75,24,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Appropriation to Depreciation Fund' ".

DEMAND NO. 14-A—WITHDRAWAL FROM RESERVE

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,11,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Withdrawal from Reserve' ".

DEMAND NO. 15.—CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LINES

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,99,78,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Construction of New Lines' ".

DEMAND NO. 16.—OPEN LINE WORKS—ADDITIONS

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Open Line Works—Additions' ".

There are two sets of cut motions, one set is from Seth Damodar Swaroop and the other set is from Shri M. Tirumala Rao. Of these only the first cut

motion of Seth Damodar Swaroop and the first cut motion of Shri Tirumala Rao are in order, because the other cut motions could have been moved at the time of the general debate and they have been moved and they have been discussed. So, even if these two cut motions.....

Shri M. Tirumala Rao (Madras: General): Before you give your ruling, may I say a word?

Mr. Chairman: I want to know which of these the honourable member desires to move.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Sir, these cut motions are intended to elicit information on certain topics which could not be discussed during the general discussion. Supplementary demand is a deviation from the main Budget for the current year. Therefore this is the only occasion on which we can raise points about the administration.

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps the honourable member knows that he can move only one cut motion.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: I may be allowed to deal with all the three motions in a brief speech not extending more than 15 minutes to which the Minister for Railways may reply. I will not press the motions to a division.

Mr. Chairman: Will not that object be achieved if the honourable member speaks on the Demand and touch upon all the three cut motions?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam (Minister of State for Railways and Transport): The practice and the convention of the House....

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): I rise to a point of order.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Santhanam is on his legs.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Sir, I am rising to a point of order. It is not the practice in this House that anything may be taken as moved or passed. I think this is irregular. I do not know if there is any convention even like that.

Mr. Chairman: It is not a point of order.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I simply want to draw the attention of the Chair and of the House to the practice and the convention that under Supplementary Demands only the particular Demand is discussed. General questions of policy should always be confined to the general Budget Debate. Therefore, if there is any particular objection to the Demand or any item included in it, a cut motion may be moved. It is the privilege of the House to do so. But questions of policy should always come under the General Debate.

Mr. Chairman: That is what I wanted to point out to Mr. Tirumala Rao. The cut motion has to be confined to the Demand in question before the House. General questions of policy cannot be discussed under Demands for Supplementary Grants.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: You can listen to my speech and then come to the conclusion whether it is covered by Mr. Santhanam's objection. Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,62,000 in respect of 'Railway Board' be reduced by Re. 1."

Sir, you are aware how the Budget discussion took place for nearly four days on the floor of the House and how the Honourable the Railway Minister had to cut short his speech in the middle of an important statement he was making. He has today the ear of the House to make that unfinished speech.

[Shri M. Tirumala Rao]

I do not want to discuss any particular general principal except that is allowed to me confining myself to the four corners of the cut motion. The purpose of my motion is this: that any extra expenditure involved in payment for the Railway Board is not justified. I want to say that the salaries of those incumbents have been already high and they are higher than the salaries of the secretaries of big Departments supposed to be above the Railway Board. This question has been mooted year after year and we have not had any specific reply from the Minister in charge whether this question is being reviewed at all or whether it will be reviewed in the near future in a manner to effect economies in the high salary bill. In spite of the amount already sanctioned for this purpose, I do not understand why the Government have come forward with a supplementary demand for Rs. 2,62,000. No doubt the purpose of this is mentioned in the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee dated 3rd February. I am not satisfied whether this expenditure is necessary in view of the large establishment that this Department has. You have the Chief Commissioner, you have a Financial Commissioner, three Members, six Directors, one Secretary, all of them drawing salaries from Rs. 2,500 up to Rs. 5,000. The Commander-in-Chief of the Army in India, who is supposed to be in charge of the safety of this country controlling a huge land army, does not get Rs. 5,000 a month. The Secretaries in the Ministries do not get Rs. 5,000 a month. I want an assurance from the Minister that, after August 15th 1947, a new set of principles are governing this country with a view to economise as much as possible consistent with efficiency. No doubt there may be agreements and convenants and certain rules protecting the emoluments and privileges of certain high officials But this cannot go on for ever. A beginning must be made now and these officials must be told that they cannot have enormous salaries which the general economic condition of the country cannot afford any longer.

I anticipate that I will not be permitted to move the other cut motions. But I wish to say a few words in this connection on the fuel operations. We are paying nearly 10 crores of rupees for freight alone on coal which cost only Rs. 10 crores in 1947. I drew the attention of the Chief Commissioner to this in 1947 and asked why he was unable to produce all the coal needed by the Railways. The total quantity of coal which the Railways consume is 89 lakhs of tons out of which coal lifted from the collieries of the railways comes to only 28 lakhs of tons.

Over nearly 60 lakh tons of coal is produced from private collieries which costs you a good deal and the carriage of this coal to your various railways has cost you nearly 10 crores of rupees. Thee must be an effective control and a long range plan of minimising the use of high-grade coal. Of course, we are thankful to your Railway Minister for the statement which he has made that they are designing engines which will also use low-grade coal. That is not enough We are going to have a large scale scheme of electrification. We are going to have big multi-purpose schemes costing 400 to 500 crores of rupees. Two days ago the Electric Power Engineers have met in a conference and our Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil, Minister for Works, Mines and Power has stated that the next five years will see a programme of electrification of the country costing 800 crores of rupees. I want to know whether the Railway Board has sent up see how far the Railways can get electrification schemes on a large scale. We some of its own engineers, technicians and high officials to that Conference and must minimise the use of high-grade coal. The total quantities of high-grade coal that is available in India is limited, and after 60 years from now, you may be exhausting all the coal resources of this country, if you go at this rate.

Shri Ramnath Goenka (Madras: General): I suppose the honourable member has read the Railway Board's report for 1947-48. It tells you that 1,800 miles are.....

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: I have seen it. What I suggest is that there should be a large scale planning of electrification. You have started, no doubt I am glad, with only 1,500 miles of electrification out of a total length of nearly 35,000 miles in the country. That is not enough. What I suggest is that there must be a co-ordinated plan of not only conserving our coal. A small piece of information is given saying that experiments are being carried with regard to the gas turbine engines. The Railway Board has got its Standards Office as well as their Research institutions to get at this job and see that coal is substituted by other fuel. Therefore, I wanted to draw the attention of the House to this matter. As regards the third item the construction of new lines, I am afraid, the programme is very disappointing.

Mr. Chairman: May I point out to the honourable member that his remark will be out of order

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: I submit that the Railway Board assumes responsibility for the whole administration, and I do not want to allow this opportunity to pass their extra demand, unless I see whether all the supplementary demands which include their activities, are quite just and reasonable.

I want to say one word with regard to that. With regard to the open lines also I suggest that there should be a comprehensive programme prepared by the Railway Board and they should see that more railway lines are opened and the country is opened up for traffic as well as for trade and commerce.

With these words, Sir, I move my motion.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Sir, I rise to second the motion moved by my honourable friend, Mr. Tirumala Rao. I wish, Sir, that the House took a little serious view of these supplementary demands when they are prosented to them. This is a supplementary demand asking the House to vote ninety-nine crores and some odd lakhs of rupees.

Shri Krishnaswami Bharathi (Madras: General): What is it?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I do not know whether my honourable friend, Mr. Krishnaswami Bharathi has studied it and whether he knows what these items refer to. I say this because he was interrupting me.

Shri Krishnaswami Bharathi: It is a reflection on the House to say that we are not taking a serious view of all matters.

Mr. Chairman: The honourable Member will see that he does not cast any reflection on any honourable member.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I am very glad, Sir, that the House has taken a very serious view of it. I wish that the House should have been given an opportunity to discuss this thoroughly and given more time for study of these supplementary grants that have been brought before this House from time to time.

Sir, in this demand, the item relating to the dearness allowance I can understand. If for emergency purposes supplementary grants are demanded, I can quite appreciate, because the Ministry could not have anticipated it when they framed their budget last year, but I fail to understand why crores of rupees under publicity, suspense account and the miscellaneous expenditure, which are ordinary expenses, should have been brought under the supplementary demands. There are no specific reasons given in the Standing Committee meetings which has been circulated to the members as the reasons for which these demands have been sanctioned.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: These are in the revised estimates.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): We have not received the book mentioned in the note to the agenda paper.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: In the explanatory memorandum every one of these items have been explained as to the causes for the increased expenditure and the revised estimates were put before the House and discussed.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: This is all right, my point is this.....

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: May I draw the attention of the House to the fact that this Volume of Demands for Grants was circulated to honourable Members when the Budget was discussed. The fullest explanation of the variations between the revised estimate and the budget estimate are contained in pages 1 and 2 of this document. If the honourable Member had read it, he would probably not have raised the point that he could understand only the increase in the dearness allowance and not other matters.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Pandit Bhargava raised the point. I stated that we received it.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: There is a note on the agenda paper circulated today which says: Book of Demands for supplementary grants giving detailed information will be circulated to Members in due course.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: It has been circulated.

Shri Ramnath Goenka. This is dated the 18th of February.

Mr. Chairman: It has been circulated.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I have received this, I must admit. I did not say that I did not receive it. My point is that the House has not been given sufficient opportunity and time to discuss this. I therefore submit that on important items like this, the House should be at least given one day. In the Provincial Assemblies, Sir, on a supplementary demand, one day is always given. I fail to understand why an hour and a half and an hour and a quarter should only be given for such supplementary grants. That is my complaint.

Then, Sir, I was mentioning that I could understand supplementary demand for emergency purposes in items of expenditure which have been incurred by the Ministry being brought before the House and these are items which they could not have anticipated when they framed the budget for last year, but for the other ordinary items such as I mentioned just now, I see no reason why this additional amount should have been spent and merely four lines are given over each item by the Standing Committees. In fact the House is not aware as to what are the specific reasons for the increase under these items. We demand that economy should be maintained, but on the contrary the miscellaneous items such as publicity, suspense account and miscellaneous expenditure are such items where details are not given. Under miscellaneous items, crores of rupees are shown; but no details are given under many heads. Therefore, I desire, in the future, the House should be given a fair opportunity to discuss this amount.

Sir, I want a little information. On page 12, it is stated: "The increase under 'Miscellaneous charges' is due mainly to payment to Messrs. Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. for the first experimental prototype coach (1:13 lakhs)". We know that new coaches were under the consideration of the Railway Ministry for the last three years and some provision has been made for the Silver Arrow; but we do not know what has happened to the Silver Arrow: whether the Ministry has absolutely dropped the construction of the Silver Arrow type which was in exhibition and on which the opinion of the House and various local

Advisory Committees were invited. I want to know whether the Railway Ministry has decided to substitute this prototype of Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., one of the coaches of which is now running in the Grand Trunk Express. I would like to know the definite policy of the Government as regards the new type of coaches. On the floor of the House, various times, it has been stated that there are no facilities in the third class carriages. This Silver Arrowtype was more or less recommended by the various local Advisory Committees.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Have we not discussed this question of accommodation to third class passengers to the maximum possible extent during the other debate?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: When there is a Demand before the House.....

Mr. Chairman: I request the honourable Member to confine his remarks to the Demand before the House.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I am discussing the demand. There is an item, prototype coach and I am entitled to seek information on this point.

What I was saying is, there is no clear-cut policy from the Railway Board regarding these third class new coaches: I want to know whether the Silver Arrow type is under consideration, whether this new type is also under considerations, if so, how many will be constructed, where they are constructed; but no definite answer to that is forthcoming.

As regards the Railway Board, my honourable friend has stated that the high expenditure on the Railway Board and the other item should be cut down. May I tell the honourable Minister that after the separation, the Pakistan Government has abolished the Railway Board in their country and appointed a Secretary to the Ministry and other officers? May I appeal to him to consider this question seriously whether the Railway Board, which is an antiquated one, which might have been necessary in the olden times for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of the British people, is still necessary. I would like him to go into the question whether there is not any overlapping of certain functions with the Railway Ministry, whether the Chief Commissioner has not an overriding power over the Railway Board, as to how the General Managers of the various Railways are functioning under the Railway Board and whether some of the defects in the present administration are not due to the antiquated rules that prevail in the Railway Board. If it is necessary for him to continue this Railway Board in the interests of the country, I will certainly support him.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: May I remind the honourable Member that he has already supported the continuance of the Railway Board for the year 1949-50? We are dealing with 1948-49 to-day.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I am sorry that such a poor and lame answer has been given to my argument. If the House today decided to abolish the Railway Board, I know they are not going to abolish it tomorrow. It will take more than a year to abolish the Railway Board. I have only asked the honourable Minister to bear this in mind and consider the question whether there is necessity to continue this Railway Board. If there is no necessity for this Board to continue, if the House decides to abolish it, I think it could be done only in 1951 because so many formalities have got to be gone through and there has to be a substitute for the Railway Board. The House knows its duty and the House has already raised that point in the general discussion on the budget. I therefore submit in all seriousness that this matter should not be lightly treated by the honourable Minister ; he may look into the question. I may assure him that I have an open mind; if the honourable Minister comes and tells me that he has investigated into this matter and is convinced that the Railway administration

[Shri R. K. Sidhva]

will not be efficient and satisfactory without the Railway Board, I shall support him. I only want definitely to know whether he has investigated into the question. I want to know, what are the powers of the Railway Board, and whether the powers overlap or not. From the information that I have got, these things happen and the result is Ministerial orders are not properly carried out. If the Pakistan Government—it may be a small Government compared with us—have successfully abolished the Railway Board, I want to know why we require it here.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Whatever we may do or may not do, should we copy Pakistan?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: There is no question of copying Pakistan. I am only giving an illustration for consideration. I see no reason why it should not be considered if it is good from the point of view of economy and better administration consistently with efficiency. If somebody does a good thing, why not copy it?

As regards the cost of fuel, my honourable friend Shri Tirumala Rao has stated about the quantity of coal that exists. I am taking an absolutely different points as regards fuel. If the report of the Enquiry Committee is persued, you find they have made a very serious structure of the question. They have given the illustration that the Nizam's State Railway has got a certain system of checking coal which is very satisfactorily working. There is no reason why, the Enquiry Committee says, that system should not be investigated and introduced here. I may tell my honourable friend Mr. Kamath, that Hyderabad is a small State and their railway is a small one when compared with us. The Enquiry Committee presided over by Pandit Kunzru has recommended that system. It does not mean that because a small Government has introduced something, we should stand on our prestige and say, we should not do it. I therefore say, that here is the recommendation of the Enquiry Committee.

Shri H. V. Kamath: On a point of explanation, Sir, I did not say that because Pakistan was a small State we should not copy it. England is a small State and we copy it in many respects.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What I was saying is, this matter also requires consideration, from another aspect. There is today a three per cent leakage from the place where coal is loaded from the colliery to the place of termination and it is weighed. I want to know whether this coal evaporates during the transit, and where this coal goes. I am sure the Ministry knows, and if the honourable Minister does not know, his officers know, because there has been a reference to it that there is a great deal of leakage in transit. Whether this coal is smuggled or whether it really evaporates is a matter for consideration of the honourable Minister.

An Honourable Member: It is only a guess about leakage.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: It is not a guess; there is the report over this question.

As regards certain other items, under working expenses, I shall not go into the details, I shall only invite the attention of the honourable the Minister, to the suggestions made by the Enquiry Committee. The honourable Minister has been good enough to say that the House will be given an opportunity one day to discuss the Enquiry Committee's report and we are thankful for that. We were told that this report will be examined by the Ministry and then will be placed before us. We were not told whether it would be placed before the Standing Finance Committee and the CAC for Railways. We would request him to place the report before these two committees and then bring it before the House so that the House may have the advantage of knowing their

views. I am sure even if some of the recommendations are to be carried out, it will take a very long time; I know how the machinery moves. Therefore, I submit that this report should be examined by the Special officer that has been appointed, as has been stated to us the other day, and the examination by the Ministry should be expedited.

As regards, electrification, Sir, I may only state that the recent Engineers Conference which met only three days ago have very strongly emphasised that if the coal situation is to be saved, in the interests of economy and in the best interests of the country's transport, electrification of railways should be expedited

They have given the five railway sections which should be electrified immediately and machinery should be indented without the least possible delay. In the interests of the railways themselves and in the interests of fuel economy they have given the suggestion. I do not know whether that suggestion which has been made only two days ago has come to the notice of the Railway Ministry, but when it comes I am sure that there are certain sections of the railway where already electrification is there and electric trains are running and steps should be taken to extend this electrification with the least possible delay. Some of these electric railways have been introduced since the last fifteen years and no effort has been made to indent for more electric trains or extend their route. In Bombay the largest section is served on the G.I.P. and the B.B. & C.I. and the conference had made very strong recommendations to extend one section from Virar to Ahmedabad and the other from Poona to Bhusawal and similarly in South India and in Bengal and Bihar. I am confident that the amount of security and the amount of facility that these electric trains give to-day to the passengers will be borne out by the passengers, who travel by these trains. I feel that no serious attention has been paid by the previous Ministry or the Railway Board in this matter, but for what reasons it is best known to them. Probably the question of war may have come in and so many other things. But I want to know whether they have placed orders for the importation of many more coaches and the extension of the electric installations. These electric trains give suburban passengers a very great deal of relief and this matter should receive the attention of the honourable Minister.

4 P.M.

I have many more things to say but as time does not permit, I shall with these few words resume my seat.

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State): Sir, I move:

"That the question be now put."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I shall take a few minutes, referring simply to the points that have been made by the two previous speakers. As you yourself pointed out, Sir, much of what they said had been covered by the debates that had already taken place on the railway budget for 1949-50 and they raised questions of large policy which are not supposed to be proper matters for discussion on supplementary demands. All the same, as certain points have been raised I wish only to say one or two words about each point.

[Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar]

Taking the points in the reverse order, I will tell Mr. Sidhva atonce that the Railway Board and the Railway Ministry are as keen about pushing electrification of railways as he is. The resolution of the Power Engineers' Conference which will be duly communicated to us will be given all the consideration it deserves, and, wherever it is possible for us to expand electrification, we shall do our best to push it.

The question of fuel raises a large issue which I am afraid I cannot deal within the few minutes at my disposal. As the Honourable the previous speakers have already pointed out, the matter has been dealt with by the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee and the Government are giving their recommendation the best consideration possible. Whatever they have said on this question will be fully investigated and whatever economy can be secured on fuel by giving such effect to such recommendations as can be given effect to will be done.

A big point that was raised by Mr. Sidhva was the abolition of the Railway Board. As I have said, it does not arise on this supplementary demand. But he has appealed to me that, if I think the particular issue he raises is good in itself, I should give effect to it whether that issue was relevant to the present debate or not. I am quite prepared to consider the merits of whatever he has said, and I think I indicated in the speech I made in introducing the budget for next year that the question of what the set-up in the Centre should properly be is a matter which is receiving the consideration of the Railway Ministry consequent on the attention that the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee has already given to this question. That is a matter which requires very careful investigation, and we will give it the best consideration that is possible. I do not say that the Railway Board as it exists today is the last word in the matter of centralised administration of railways. There may be changes that are required. There may be proposed a modification in the set-up altogether which may be considered necessary. But all that will come in good time and it will require legislation of a comprehensive character. It cannot be done by a mere stroke of the pen today. If I did so I would simply upset the transport service of the country.

The other point was raised by Mr. Tirumala Rao about the high salaries that people in the Railway Board draw. I may tell him that as a result of the consideration of the recommendations made by the Central Pay Commission, Government did take this matter into their consideration and they have prescribed certain rates of salary for the Chief Commissioner and Members of the Railway Board, the Directors and Joint Directors, the Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors. They are well within limits which I think both Mr. Tirumala Rao and even Mr. Sidhva would appreciate. The Chief Commissioner's salary has been fixed at Rs. 3,250 instead of Rs. 5,000, and the salaries of other Members of the Board have been fixed at Rs. 3,000. Similar reductions have been made in the salaries of other Members of the Board's office. But all this can be given effect to only when the opportunity occurs for doing so. There are certain people who have come down to us from the old days with certain scales of pay guaranteed to them and, if they elect to retain those scales of pay, we cannot as a Government get out of our commitments in any cavalierly fashion. The main thing we have to take note of is that we should respect our commitments to our employees and officers, and to that extent we have to respect those commitments. For some years to come, certain people will be receiving higher salaries than we consider to be adequate for new officers occupying some positions.

As regards the particular matter in respect of which the cut is moved, let me tell the honourable Mr. Sidhva that, when he said he could understand the increase on account of dearness allowance, almost the overwhelming part of the increase we are asking for is covered by dearness allowance. If you look at page 2 of this document—Demands for Grants—you will find that against the supplementary demand of Rs. 2,62,000, Rs. 2,11,000 are accounted for by dearness allowance, and while we have created a few temporary posts of Directors, Joint Directors and Deputy Directors, we have kept vacant other posts already sanctioned in the cadre because we did not feel the need to fill them or men were not available to fill them. So this Rs. 2,11,000 as well as odds and ends in the adjustment of the various items constitute the Rs. 2,62,000, for which we have presented a supplementary demand.

Sir, I will not take up more time of the House . . . . . .

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What about the Hindustan Aircraft Factory?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: We have given you the fullest possible information during the Railway Budget debate as to our programme for building coaches. . . .

Shri R. K. Sidhva: I would like to know whether the Silver Arrow type of carriage is going to be continued.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: We have placed an order for 100 coaches of 10 ft.-8 in. Of the Silver Arrow also we have ordered 50. We are trying to substitute all-metal coaches wherever possible. I hope the House will be satisfied with this very brief statement of mine on the speeches that have been made and will vote the supplementary grants.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Chairman: Has the honourable Member the leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman: If it is the wish of the House I shall put together all the demands for supplementary grants.

The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of the corresponding heads of Supplementary Demands entered in the second column thereof."

The motion was adopted.

[*As directed by Mr. Chairman the motions for Demands for Supplementary Grants which were adopted by the Assembly are reproduced below.—Ed. of Deb.*]

DEMAND NO. 1.—RAILWAY BOARD

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,62,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Railway Board'."

DEMAND NO. 2.—AUDIT

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,25,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Audit'."

DEMAND NO. 3.—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 13,05,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Miscellaneous expenditure'."

DEMAND NO. 4.—WORKING EXPENSES—ADMINISTRATION

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 33,34,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Administration'."

DEMAND NO. 5.—WORKING EXPENSES—REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,42,96,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance'."

DEMAND NO. 6.—WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATING STAFF

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 24,88,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Operating Staff'."

DEMAND NO. 7.—WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION (FUEL)

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,25,33,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)'."

DEMAND NO. 9.—WORKING EXPENSES—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 63,22,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses'."

DEMAND NO. 10.—PAYMENTS TO INDIAN STATES AND COMPANIES

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,28,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Payments to Indian States and Companies'."

DEMAND NO. 11.—WORKING EXPENSES—APPROPRIATION TO DEPRECIATION FUND

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,75,24,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of Working Expenses—'Appropriation to Depreciation Fund'."

DEMAND NO. 14.—A—WITHDRAWAL FROM RESERVE

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,11,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Withdrawal from Reserve'."

DEMAND NO. 15—CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LINES

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,99,78,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Construction of New Lines'."

DEMAND NO. 16.—OPEN LINE WORKS—ADDITIONS

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Open Line Works—Additions'."

The Assembly then adjourned till Five of the Clock in the Afternoon.

The Assembly re-assembled at Five of the Clock in the Afternoon, Mr. Chairman (Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava) in the Chair.

THE BUDGET FOR 1949-50

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister of Finance): Sir, I rise to present the Budget for 1949-50.

Review of Economic Conditions

2. Although this is the fourth year since the cessation of hostilities, the return of normal conditions, without which it is impossible to expand production and develop trade, seems still as far of as ever. Over large parts of the world, conditions remain disturbed and the progress of recovery from the ravages of the war is painfully slow. In Europe the *impasse* in Berlin, the civil war in Greece and the emergence of two rival camps among the countries that fought the war as allies are symptomatic of the abnormal conditions which still prevail. The Palestine question, which is a serious threat to peace and stability in the Middle East, is still unsolved. Nearer home, the continuance of civil strife in China, the disturbances in Burma, which concern us deeply in view of our close economic ties with that country and the large interests our nationals have in it, and the unprovoked assault of the Dutch on the Indonesian Republic, all these retard the economic recovery not merely of this largely under-developed area of the globe but of the whole world. Prosperity, like peace, is indivisible and while these conflicts are going on in various parts of the world involving a tragic waste of men and material, the common man in all countries, particularly the less developed countries, continues to pay a heavy price in want and suffering.

3. In our own country, as in most other countries in the post-war period, the major problem has been that of keeping the inflationary trends under control. It is not necessary for me to dilate on the causes of the emergence of these trends since the end of the war. While as a result of the war the purchasing power in the hands of the community increased considerably, the available supply of commodities in the post-war period was not sufficient to meet the increasing demand for them. The shortage of essential commodities, particularly food and clothing, aggravated the situation owing to the rise in the money income of some sections of the community who in the past never competed for food and consumer goods on the same scale. Difficulties in transport and distribution accentuated the shortages while the partition last year and the economic dislocation caused over considerable parts of the country by the movement of population between the two Dominions made the position worse. A steady rise in prices occurred throughout 1947 the general index number of wholesale prices rising from 290.5 at the beginning of the year to 314.2 at the end of December. In the first seven months of 1948 there was a further steep rise in prices, the index number of wholesale prices rising by as much as 76 points to 390.1. Since then the prices have slightly dropped and as a result of the various measures taken by Government prices have remained more or less steady.

4. The answer to the problem of inflation and high prices is to increase the supply of commodities to meet the existing demand and until this position is reached to control the distribution of the available supply of the essential commodities. In the matter of food the supply position still continues to be difficult and last year owing to the poor crops in certain parts of the country we have had to import 2·8 million tons from overseas at a cost of Rs. 190 crores against an estimated import of 2 million tons at a cost of Rs. 110 crores. The position is expected to be still more difficult this year owing to the floods in Bihar and the United Provinces, the damage caused by the recent cyclone in Bombay and the outbreak of famine in parts of Gujarat, Saurashtra, Rajasthan and Cutch and imports may amount to 4 million tons. As the House is aware, it has already been decided to re-introduce food control and it is hoped that this will secure an equitable supply of food grains throughout the country at fair prices. In respect of other commodities the position in regard to internal

[Dr. John Matthai]

production has, I am glad to say, been encouraging in recent months although it has not been possible in many cases to reach the peak production of the war years or the target that has been set. Last year the production of coal at 29.73 million tons and of steel at 854,000 tons just fell short of the production in the previous year while the production of salt rose from 49.6 million maunds to 59.3 million maunds, of cotton yarn from 1,315 million lbs. to 1,442 million lbs., of cloth from 3,816 million yards to 4,338 million yards, of art silk fabrics from 85 million yards to 114 million yards, of plywood from 28.6 million sq. feet to 38.63 million sq. feet and of soap from 80,000 tons to 190,000 tons. The flow of raw materials to industry has also improved with the improvement in the transport position while with the relaxation of import controls there has been a larger flow of imported goods Production has also been greatly assisted by the occurrence of fewer strikes and labour disputes. If the present favourable trends in production continue, I have no doubt that it will be possible not merely to arrest the rise in prices but to bring them down gradually.

5. The state of the capital market in the year under review has been a matter of concern to Government. While there is obviously a large amount of money in the country competing for the limited supply of goods, the investment market has been stagnant and there has been little flow of money into either Government loans or into industrial concerns. This stagnation is due in large measure to the prevailing uncertainty in regard to matters affecting industrial development and prospects. My own view is that with the huge potential demand in this country for both consumer and capital goods, there is bound to be for many years a wide field for private enterprise and that in this matter no one who invests money is taking a greater risk than in any other country in the world.

6. As I mentioned a while ago, the fight against inflation has been one of Government's main pre-occupations this year. As Honourable Members are aware, Government consulted various interests and sections of public opinion regarding the measures necessary to deal with this situation. In a matter of this kind, it is obviously not possible to expect complete unanimity of opinion as to either the causes of inflation or the remedies to be adopted. But it was clear that immediate action should be taken to prevent, as far as possible, the further creation of purchasing power in the hands of the community and to take all steps possible to stimulate production and instil a spirit of confidence in industry. With this end in view, in the field of taxation additional duties on certain articles of luxury such as liquor, tobacco, motor cars, silk and art silk fabrics were imposed and an excise duty on super fine cloth was levied. Power was taken to make provisional assessments of income-tax on the basis of returns submitted by the assessees. A system of interest bearing deposits for income-tax introduced in 1943 was also revived and it was decided to postpone for a further period of three years the refund of deposits of Excess Profits Tax except for approved purposes. A temporary limit was also placed on the amount that may be distributed as dividend by public companies, by an Ordinance, the enactment of which into law is now under consideration by the House. Among measures taken to stimulate industrial production, I would mention the reduction in the import duty on machinery and certain industrial raw materials and the abolition of the import duty on cotton yarn. New industrial undertakings commencing production in the next three years have been given exemption from income-tax for the first five years up to a limit of six per cent. per annum on their capital. The rules regulating depreciation allowances have also been liberalised. In the field of Governmental expenditure a rapid review was conducted of all capital and development schemes

including the Provincial schemes. As a result the total provision for capital and development schemes and loans has been substantially reduced. It was also made clear to the Provinces that in the present financial situation they should not count on Central assistance for implementing their schemes of social or agrarian reform. The House will realise that it was not without regret that we decided to hold up even temporarily the various schemes of development the execution of which is necessary for the well being of the country. But the need for economy was imperative and we had to postpone all avoidable expenditure. But this has not led to the slowing down of any productive scheme or any scheme really essential for the national interest. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sense of gratitude to the Provincial Governments for their ready co-operation in this matter.

Balance of Payments

7. The main features in the external financial position of the country in the year under review have been the sharp decline in the sterling balances held by the Reserve Bank of India, the growing difficulty in the financing of imports from the hard currency areas and the emergence of Pakistan as a foreign country for currency purposes with the separation of its currency from that of India. The sterling balances which reached the peak figure of Rs. 1,733 crores at the end of 1945-56 declined by Rs. 121 crores to Rs. 1,612 crores during 1946-47. This reduction was due mainly to the large imports of food but there were also substantial imports of other goods in satisfaction of the pent up demand of the war years and also a certain amount of repatriation of British capital. During 1947-48 the reduction was somewhat smaller due to the restrictive import policy which was introduced towards the close of 1947 and the balances fell by only Rs. 67 crores to Rs. 1,545 crores. In the first ten months of the current year there has been a (further) drop of Rs. 556 crores in these balances. This heavy reduction is due to several causes. The first is the payment to the United Kingdom Government in accordance with the agreement reached with them last July, of Rs. 284 crores for the purchase of annuities for financing the payment of sterling pensions and for the acquisition of the Defence installations and stores left behind in India by the United Kingdom at the end of the war. The second is the payment to the State Bank of Pakistan of Pakistan's share of these balances following the separation of its currency from that of India. This payment is still continuing as the sterling and other assets of the Issue Department are handed over in instalments as Indian notes are withdrawn from circulation in Pakistan and handed over to the Reserve Bank. Sterling to the extent of Rs. 1,77 crores has so far been transferred to the Pakistan State Bank. The third factor responsible for the decline is India's adverse balance of payments on current and capital account.

8. Government's import policy is largely determined by the trend of the balance of payments. The aim of this policy is so to regulate trade that while it is kept at the highest possible level consistent with the needs and requirement of the country, India should not have an overall deficit in her balance of payments on current account during any particular period of time of more than the amount by which it has been agreed with the United Kingdom Government that India's sterling balances should be drawn upon. Under the present agreement signed last July it has been agreed that India's free sterling account which had a balance at the end of June, 1948 of £ 80 million will be credited with an equivalent sum during the period July, 1949 to June, 1951. In pursuance of this policy and also with the immediate object of reducing the inflationary pressure in the country, import controls were relaxed during the course of the year, and I am glad to say they have resulted in substantially increasing the available supply of goods in the country.

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9. While our overall balance of payment position is on the whole satisfactory, our balance of payments with the dollar and hard currency countries is causing us great concern. In the prewar years India had usually a surplus with the United States of America and during the war years owing to the drastic curtailment of imports to conserve dollars for the war effort, India continued to have increasing surpluses. After the war, the trend of trade rapidly reversed itself and, in common with the rest of the world, this country started having substantial deficits on hard currency account. The reason for this was that we had increasingly to turn to the hard currency countries for our requirements as the countries whose economies had been disrupted by the war could not meet them. This was particularly true of food which is today the largest single consumer of foreign exchange. Burma could not supply all the rice we needed because of the ravages of the war and its aftermath; Australia could not give us all the wheat we wanted because the United Kingdom had priority in supply.

10. India's dollar deficit in the past used to be financed by the central reserves of the sterling area. But beginning from January, 1948 the United Kingdom refused to carry this responsibility any further and insisted on limiting the convertibility of our sterling very rigidly. The limits imposed—£ 10 million ($ 40 million) for the half year January—June, 1948 and £ 15 million ($ 60 million) for the year July, 1948—June, 1949—these limits bear no relation whatever to our needs. Concurrently with the imposition of these limits on convertibility, there came the separation of the exchange resources of Pakistan from India which also took place in January, 1948. This has handicapped us severely as many commodities which before partition earned hard currency, such as raw jute, raw cotton and hides and skins, were largely exported from territories which are now included in Pakistan. In spite of the maximum possible limitation of imports from the hard currency areas and the maximum possible encouragement of exports thereto, India had a deficit in her balance of payments with the hard currency countries in the six months April to September, 1948 of $ 45 million. The deficit for the next three months, for which now preliminary figures are available, is expected to be $ 48 million. Of these deficits, the purchase of food grains was responsible for $ 85 million and $ 40 million respectively. These deficits which exceed by far the convertibility allowed to us by the United Kingdom have been met by loans from the International Monetary Fund from which since March, 1948 we have borrowed no less than $ 92 million.

11. I confess that this chronic dollar deficit is causing Government no little anxiety. Honourable Members are aware that we intend to negotiate dollar loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. But these loans will be available only for financing the purchase of equipment for our developmental projects and not for current expenditure. We do not favour the idea of borrowing on the present scale from the International Monetary Fund but if the central reserves of the sterling area, to which at one time we were a source of strength, insist on continuing to limit our claims on them in the same way as at present, we shall have no alternative to continuing to borrow. One ray of hope in the situation lies, of course, in the fact that we hope, in future years, to import less food and to divert our food purchases to the soft currency areas. It is also possible that the international prices of food grains will not remain at the present high levels.

12. While we have exchange control with all countries in the world, we have none with Pakistan. This has been rendered possible by the fact that simultaneously with the separation of their currencies on the 1st July, 1948

India and Pakistan came to a monetary and payments agreement. The main terms of this agreement, which is in the first instance valid for a period of one year, are that each party will hold the currency of the other up to a limit of Rs. 15 crores, that thereafter up to a further limit of Rs. 10 crores accounts will be settled in free sterling and the balance in Account No. II. The reason for entering into an agreement of this kind was that the Governments of both Dominions were anxious to ensure that the obstacle to inter-dominion trade, which the imposition of exchange control would necessarily entail, should, if possible, be avoided. I am glad to say that this agreement has worked satisfactorily and that currency considerations have not stood in the way of inter-dominion commerce.

Financial Year, 1948-49

13. I shall now proceed to give a brief review of the financial position in the current and the ensuing years.

For the current year the deficit is now estimated at Rs. 1.55 crores against Rs. 2.14 crores provided in the budget.

Revenue

14. The revenue receipts are now estimated at Rs. 338.32 crores against the budget estimate of Rs. 255.24 crores, an increase of Rs. 83.08 crores. With the relaxation in the import controls during the course of the year there has been a considerable expansion of imports and the revenue from Customs is expected to be Rs. 36.49 crores more than the budget estimate. The yield from the excise duties on sugar, matches, tyres and tubes and vegetable products has also shown a substantial improvement and with the exeise duty on cotton cloth imposed last December and estimated to yield Rs. 7 crores in a full year the revenue from Central excise duties is likely to be Rs. 4.28 crores more than the Budget estimate. Income-tax receipts are now placed at Rs. 20.62 crores more than the budget largely as a result of the intensive drive for the clearance of arrears and the recent ordinance authorising the provisional collection of tax on the basis of the statements of income of the assessees, but of this increase Rs. 5.38 crores will accrue to the Provinces as their share of revenue. The revenue from the two Government commercial departments also shows increases. The contribution from Posts and Telegraphs is likely to be Rs. 2.95 crores more than the Budget while from the Railways, as the House is already aware, the contribution will amount to Rs. 7.34 crores against Rs. 4.5 crores taken in the budget. The profits from currency also show an increase of Rs. 3.65 crores. There is also a carryover of Rs. 1.33 crores on account of Government's share of the profit on stocks of sugar frozen in December 1947 which was not realised during that year and also certain pre-partition receipts amounting to Rs. 13.4 crores.

Expenditure

15. The total expenditure this year is now estimated at Rs. 339.87 crores, an increase of Rs. 82.49 crores over the budget estimate which nearly wipes out the increase in revenue. Of this increase, Defence Services account for Rs. 34.35 crores and Civil estimates for the balance of Rs. 48.14 crores.

16. *Defence Services.*—The expenditure on Defence Services during the year has been affected by the continuance of the operations in Kashmir, the extent and duration of which could not be foreseen at the time the budget was prepared and for which, in consequence, no provision was included and also by the unforeseen deterioration in the situation in Hyderabad which led to the police action last September. In view of these developments the armed forces had to be maintained at a higher strength than was contemplated in the budget. New units had to be raised and some of the operational demands for stores,

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equipment and munitions had to be met by fresh procurement. In addition to our own forces we had to take in service larger forces from the Indian States and the Government of Nepal also loaned us some of their troops for purposes of internal defence. All these measures entailed additional expenditure for which there was no provision in the budget.

17. The increase of Rs. 48·14 crores in civil expenditure is mainly due to three causes. First, the revised estimates include a new provision of Rs. 20·75 crores for meeting pre-partition liabilities for which no provision was made in the budget. At the time the budget was framed, sufficient data regarding the outstanding liabilities were not available and the arrangement with Pakistan for meeting and adjusting these had not also been settled. It was hoped that these liabilities would be met and shared currently by the two Dominions but the Pakistan Government declined to meet these liabilities on the ground that they were initially those of India and that Pakistan would take its share only through the debt settlement. The Government of India do not accept this view as, in their opinion, after the division of the available cash balances between the two Governments, the outstanding liabilities should be paid and currently shared by the two Governments. But in order to avoid hardship to those who had made supplies or rendered services to the undivided Government, the Government of India have agreed to meet the liabilities in the first instance. Certain outstanding payments relating to the pre-partition period, such as the Provincial share of income-tax, are also due to the Provincial Governments now located in India which the Government of India propose to meet. Secondly, the expenditure on the relief and rehabilitation of refugees which has always been difficult to estimate and for which a provision of Rs. 10·04 crores was made in the budget is now expected to amount to Rs. 19·45 crores. This increase is partly due to the carryover of certain liabilities from the previous year, mainly payments to Provincial Governments, which could not be made before the close of the year; partly also to increased expenditure on relief which has to be regulated with reference to the constantly changing requirements of the situation. Thirdly, the expenditure on the subsidising of imported food grains and the payment of bonuses to Provincial Governments on internal procurement is now expected to exceed the original estimate by Rs. 12·05 crores. The House will remember that after a review of the food position last. October it was decided that with effect from the 1st October 1948 the Central share of the loss on the supply of imported food grains to deficit areas should be raised from two thirds to three quarters and that a similar concession, limited to the Centre meeting half the loss, should be extended to the Indian States. Part of the increase is also due to the fact that while the budget provided for subsidies up to the end of the calendar year, provision has now been made for the full financial year.

I should also mention a further reason for the increase in civil expenditure. The House will remember that in the budget for the current year my predecessor made a lump cut of Rs. 2.5 crores for economies likely to result from the implementation of the recommendations of the Economy Committee. The work of this Committee has taken somewhat longer than was originally expected and its report on a number of Ministries is still under examination. No savings are therefore likely to be realised this year. For next year I am not making any provision at this stage as it is not possible, until firm decisions have been taken on their recommendations, to estimate the savings likely to be realised. But I may assure the House that this does not mean that I do not expect economies to result from the Committee's recommendations. On the contrary it is my intention to secure the utmost economy possible in public expenditure and the House may rest assured that the recommendations of the Committee will be most carefully and earnestly considered by Government and the resulting economies enforced during the course of the year.

Income-tax Investigation Commission

18. Before I pass on to deal with the estimates for the coming year I should like to mention the progress made in the work of the Income-tax Investigation Commission. Honourable Members will remember that the Act constituting the Commission assigned two duties to it, first to investigate and report on all matters relating to taxation on income, with particular reference to the extent to which the existing law relating to and procedure for the assessment and collection of such taxation is adequate to prevent evasion and secondly to investigate specific cases referred to the Commission by the Central Government. On a study of the working of the Income-tax law and its administration during recent years, the Commission came to the conclusion that on a long-term view the first task was no less important than the second, and as work on the second had for various reasons necessarily to be slow, the Commission devoted a great part of its time till recently to the first task. This involved the examination of voluminous evidence tendered in reply to a comprehensive questionnaire which was issued, and the Commission has recently submitted a long report in which it has made recommendations on many points of law and of administration. These recommendations are now being examined with a view to the necessary legislation being introduced, and it is hoped that it will be possible to place a Bill before the House at its next session. Copies of the Commission's report, I may say, will be distributed to Honourable Members along with the Budget papers before the House rises today.

19. As regards the investigation of specific cases referred to it by Government, the Commission has completed a few cases. Greater progress was not possible for a variety of reasons. Firstly, it was only in April 1948 that the necessary staff for investigation work could be placed at the disposal of the Commission. This was because it was not possible for the Income-tax Department to spare their more experienced officers for this work before April, 1948, in view of the shortage of officers in the Department and the large amount of arrears that had to be collected. However, this difficulty has now been overcome to some extent, and the officers authorised by the Commission are working in different cities carrying on investigation under instructions and directions given by the Commission. It is the material gathered by them that will form the basis of the Commission's further work.

Another factor which has delayed the disposal of specific cases taken up for enquiry is that it has been found that a good deal of general enquiry and collection of facts and figures is a necessary preliminary to the investigation of the specific cases. These general enquiries and the collation of the materials collected have taken a considerable time, but the work is proceeding apace. Once this is completed, it may be hoped that the disposal of specific cases will be expedited.

In this connection I may add that the possibility of disposing of the referred cases by agreed settlement is being explored, and a Bill will shortly be placed before the House for vesting the necessary powers for making such settlements in the hands of the Commission.

Financial Year, 1949-50

20. I now turn to the estimates for the next financial year. At the existing level of taxation, I place the total revenue at Rs. 307.74 crores and the expenditure charged to revenue at Rs. 322.53 crores leaving a deficit of Rs. 14.79 crores.

Revenue

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21. The total receipt from customs is estimated at Rs. 107·25 crores. This provides for a full year's effect of the changes in the tariff in the course of this year as part of the campaign against inflation. Central excises are expected to bring in Rs. 57.75 crores, including Rs. 7 crores from the recently imposed excise duty on superfine cloth. Receipts from income-tax, which include Rs. 11·22 crores on account of Excess Profits Tax and Rs. 12·01 crores on account of Business Profits Tax have been placed at Rs. 155 crores. Honourable members will remember that it was decided last year that advance payments of tax should be taken direct to revenue instead of being treated initially as a deposit and, as a first step in the process of changing the accounting procedure, advance payments of Corporation Tax were taken direct to revenue in the budget for the current year. Next year, as a further step in the process, I have taken credit in the revenue estimates for Rs. 12·5 crores for a part of these advance payments that will be received during the year. I hope that the change will be completed over the next three years. The divisible pool of income-tax is estimated at Rs. 90·7 crores of which the Centre will retain, Rs. 46.85 crores leaving Rs. 43·85 crores as the Provincial share. The profits from Currency and Mint, after allowing for the share of Pakistan are estimated at Rs. 9·7 crores.

The revenue from the Posts and Telegraphs Department is expected to amount to Rs. 30·26 crores and working expenses and interest to Rs. 28·63 crores, leaving a surplus of Rs. 1·63 crores. As in the current year this surplus will be shared equally by general revenues and the department which will get a rebate of interest on its share of the accumulated profits, expected to amount to about Rs. 10 crores at the end of the budget year.

The contribution from the Railways for next year has been taken at Rs. 4·72 crores, the amount provided in the Railway Budget.

Expenditure

22. The total expenditure in the coming year is estimated at Rs. 322·53 crores of which Defence Services will account for Rs. 157·37 crores and civil expenditure for Rs. 165·16 crores.

23. *Defence Services.*—Following the customary procedure I shall first deal with the Defence estimates. The Defence Budget for the coming year shows an increase of Rs. 1·94 crores over the revised estimate for the current year; the excess in which I largely ascribed to the operations in Kashmir. The House may well ask why with the cease fire in Kashmir there is no decrease in the Defence Budget. The main reason for this is that the reduction in the strength of the armed forces cannot be made over-night and the process of demobilisation has necessarily to be spread over a period similar to the recruitment and training of the forces. The current year's revised estimates reflect the expenditure on the gradual building up of our strength while the budget for next year would reflect the gradual reduction in that strength. Since both the processes take time, the average strength of the troops during the budget year is unlikely to differ materially from that in the current year. In framing the budget for next year we have taken into account the improvement in the Kashmir situation following the cease fire and our hope that this cease fire will eventually lead to a peaceful solution of the problem. The House will naturally not expect me to go into greater detail in this matter but I must utter a warning that if for any unforeseen reason these hopes on which we have based our estimates are not realised, it may be necessary to exceed the provision now proposed. It has also to be remembered that the recent grant of an *ad hoc*

allowance to employees of the Central Government has added Rs. 4 crores to the Defence Budget next year. The budget for next year also includes additional provision for the expansion of the Navy and the Air Force. As the House is aware, our Navy till recently consisted of only a few sloops and frigates designed primarily for port defence but with the achievement of independence the Navy has been called upon to shoulder greater responsibilities than before, for which it is necessary to have a balanced force, complete with aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers and submarines. With this end in view, Government have recently approved the first phase of a 10-year plan for the Navy, confined mainly to the recruitment and training of the personnel in the various branches of the Navy. The last war proved conclusively the overwhelming importance of the fleet air arm and the House will be glad to know that a beginning has already been made in this respect and that the budget includes provision for the establishment of a fleet air arm. With regard to the Air Forces also, plans for their expansion and development are going forward. It is hoped to train sufficient technical man-power to make it a more balanced and effective force.

24. Before I pass on to civil estimates I would like to refer to a change in the preparation of the Defence Demands for next year. The provision for supplies and stores which was previously pooled together and included under one Demand for all the three Services, except for certain Naval and Air Force stores, has now been split among the three Services—Army, Navy and Air Force. This change will make the estimates for each Service self-contained to a greater extent than before and enable the Defence authorities to exercise a closer and more efficient control over the expenditure in their respective Services.

25. *Civil Estimates.*—I now come to the Civil Estimates. Details of the estimates under individual heads are, as usual, given in the Explanatory Memorandum circulated with the budget papers and it is unnecessary for me to deal with them at any considerable length here. I should like, however, to refer briefly to certain special items for which provision is included in these estimates. The budget next year includes Rs. 9·85 crores for the relief and rehabilitation of refugees. In addition, a provision of Rs. 23·27 crores has been made for the same purpose in the capital budget, Rs. 21·84 crores for loans for rehabilitation including loans to Provincial Governments and the Rehabilitation Finance Administration and Rs. 1·93 crores for buildings. The expenditure on food subsidies and the payment of bonus on procurement under the revised policy is estimated at Rs. 32·97 crores next year. The estimates also include Rs. 10 crores for the meeting of pre-partition claims and Rs. 12·88 crores under the various heads of expenditure for development schemes.

26. Of the total expenditure of Rs. 165·16 crores provided in the budget for next year, Rs. 52·82 crores are accounted for by the expenditure on refugees, the payment for food subsidies and pre-partition payments, leaving Rs. 112·34 crores for normal expenditure. This includes Rs. 10·06 crores for tax collection, Rs. 41·97 crores for obligatory expenditure on payment of interest and pensions and provision for debt redemption, Rs. 2·04 crores for planning and resettlement. Rs. 2·23 crores for expenditure on Currency and Mint, Rs. 2·95 crores for grants-in-aid to Provincial Governments and Rs. 24·20 crores for expenditure in the nation building spheres such as Education, Medical and Public Health, Broadcasting, Aviation and on Scientific Surveys and institutions in which the Central Government largely supplement the work of Provincial Governments. The balance of Rs. 28·89 crores represents the provision for administration, Civil Works, etc. and represents only 17·5 per cent. of the total civil

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expenditure. In addition to Rs. 24·20 crores in the nation building spheres mentioned above, provision has also been made for the grant of Rs. 26·81 crores to Provincial Governments for development and 49·25 crores for loans.

27. Honourable Members are aware that in recent months a large number of Indian States have been merged in the neighbouring Indian Provinces or taken over for administration direct by the Centre as part of the policy of unifying the country under the guidance of my distinguished colleague the Deputy Prime Minister. Ultimately the revenue and expenditure of these States have to merge in those of the Provinces or the Centre depending on the subject to which they pertain. But the process of integration is still incomplete and for the present the transactions of these States have been kept separate in a deposit account and not included in the revenue and expenditure of India. If, as may be hoped, the integration is completed in the course of the coming year, these transactions will be included in the revised estimates for the year.

28. On the basis of the estimates of revenue and expenditure that I have explained so far, the anticipated deficit for next year is Rs. 14·79 crores. I shall return to the question of how I propose to deal with this deficit in a later part of my speech.

Post-War Planning and Development

29. I mentioned earlier that as part of the campaign against inflation, Government had to review their whole programme of expenditure and reduce the outlay both in the capital and in the revenue budgets. Even so, substantial amounts have been included in the budget for grants to Provincial Governments and for Central schemes of development. So far as the Provinces are concerned it is not the intention that the scale of assistance promised to them by the Centre for their development schemes and on which they have formulated their plans should in any way be reduced. All that is happening is that the pace of this assistance is being temporarily slowed down in view of the urgent need for economy and in so doing special care has been taken to see that the progress of productive schemes and schemes of long range importance essential for national development is not held up. The House will remember that last year we laid down the policy that the grant each year from the Centre should be limited to half the amount spent on the approved schemes. Some of the smaller Provinces whose resources are limited asked for the waiver of this condition and in spite of our own difficulties we have agreed for this year and for next year to allow them grants up to the total amount they may spend on approved schemes. The budget for next year includes a provision of Rs. 26·81 crores for grants and Rs. 49·25 crores for loans to Provinces for development.

30. For Central schemes of development including resettlement a provision of Rs. 12.83 crores has been made in the revenue budget and Rs. 24·07 crores in the capital budget. Details of the provision are given in the Explanatory Memorandum and among the important schemes I would mention the expansion of the Forest Research Institute, Debra Dun, the development of the forest estate in the Andamans, the preliminary work on a number of river projects like the Kosi, the Assam Valley, the Narbada, Tapti and Sabarmati schemes, investigations in Coorg, Central Provinces and Bastar, the reorganisation of the Central Waterways Navigation and Irrigation Research Station, the expansion of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and the development of basic education. The budget also provides Rs. 2·19 crores for the Central Government's share of the expenditure on the Damodar Valley Scheme, Rs. 90 lakhs for buildings for development schemes, Rs. 4·93 crores for the Fertiliser Factory under construction at Sindri, Rs. 2·92 crores for the expansion of civil aviation and Rs. 96 lakhs for the expansion of Broadcasting.

In the sphere of industrial development a beginning is also being made in the starting of basic industries essential for national development. Among these I would mention the Government Telephone Factory for the manufacture of telephone equipment, the setting up of a Shipping Corporation in which a total sum of Rs. 6·98 crores is expected to be invested this year and next year, the setting up of new steel works and factories for the manufacture of wireless equipment, synthetic oil, machine tools, cables, Diesel engines and heavy electrical equipment. A beginning will be made in the establishment of these industries which will be developed in subsequent years.

Capital Expenditure

31. With regard to capital expenditure I have just mentioned the provision included in the budget for development schemes. The House will doubtless be interested in the provision made in the budget for normal capital expenditure. But before I describe this, I must mention certain special transactions which have been entered in the capital budget this year. The first is the payment to the U.K. Government for the purchase of annuities for meeting the sterling pensions which accounts for a net debit of Rs. 215·68 crores this year and a recovery of Rs. 7·42 crores next year for which credit has been taken. The second is the payment, again to the U.K. Government, as part of the Sterling Balances Agreement of Rs. 133·38 crores for the Defence stores and installations taken over from them against which Rs. 51·57 crores will be recovered this year and Rs. 11·8 crores next year from Pakistan and from the sale of surpluses. The third is the outlay of Rs. 5.93 crores on the acquisition of the shares of the Reserve Bank of India this year. Lastly, there is a provision of Rs. 5·08 crores this year and Rs. 92 lakhs next year for payment to Pakistan for setting up Ordnance factories and other unique institutions. As part of the partition arrangements it was agreed that as most Ordnance factories and institutions like the Security Printing Press and the Currency Note Press were located in India and it was not desirable to break up these institutions, a sum of Rs. 6 crores should be made available to Pakistan for setting up similar institutions in Pakistan. This payment will be added to Pakistan's partition debt to India. Excluding these special items and the provision for development schemes and grants to Provinces the provision for normal capital expenditure amounts to Rs. 44·09 crores this year and Rs. 62·42 crores next year. Of the provision this year, Railways account for Rs. 27·15 crores and the Posts and Telegraphs Department for Rs. 2·91 crores. Next year's budget provides Rs. 28·49 crores for the Railways, Rs. 3·82 crores for Posts and Telegraphs and Rs. 7·9 crores for schemes of State Trading, mainly for the purchase of foodgrains the cost of which will be recovered in the following year.

The House will remember that a provision of Rs. 14·99 crores was made in the budget for the current year for capital outlay on Defence. The actual expenditure is now estimated at Rs. 9·91 crores, the decrease being mainly due to the delay in the completion of certain plans for major works and the procurement of aircraft. For next year a provision of Rs. 15 crores has been included of which Rs. 7·24 crores will be spent on the Army, Rs. 2·79 crores on the Navy and Rs. 4·97 crores on the Air Force.

Ways and Means

32. I now turn to a brief consideration of the ways and means position. The current year's budget provided for a total borrowing of Rs. 150 crores from the market and to a net receipt of Rs. 31·25 crores from small savings. For a variety of reasons to which I have referred in another part of my speech the gilt edged market remained inactive throughout the year with very little investment demand. It was not therefore possible to borrow on the scale originally contemplated. For next year I have made a modest

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provision of Rs. 85 crores for market loans. But if, as I hope, conditions improve the scale of borrowing will be raised. Next year Government have the option, of repaying the 3 per cent. loan 1949-52 with an outstanding balance of Rs. 67 crores. I have assumed that this amount will be repaid and in my estimate of borrowing next year I have taken this return of money to the market also into account. In the present inflationary conditions, it is of the outmost importance for the economy of the country that the community should save as much as possible and lend its savings to the State. I trust that the recent measures taken by Government to meet the inflationary situation would help in restoring public confidence and that this time next year I shall be in a position to give a more heartening picture of public co-operation in the Government's borrowing operations. As regards small savings, there has been in recent months some improvement in the net receipts from Savings Banks and in the sale of National Savings Certificates. The House will remember that last April Government issued two new series of certificates with a currency of five and seven years to cater to the smaller investor and also raised the maximum limit of investment in both Postal Savings Bank and National Savings Certificates. It is too early to assess the result of these measures but Government are doing all in their power, in co-operation with the Provincial Governments, to stimulate and sustain the small savings movement. It is hoped that the budget anticipations in regard to receipts from this source will be exceeded this year by Rs.1·6 crores. For next year I have allowed for some further improvement and taken credit for a net receipt of Rs. 37·56 crores.

33. I now pass on to my proposals for dealing with the deficit of Rs. 14·79 crores anticipated in the coming year.

34. The prospective deficit is substantial and I am sure that the House will agree with me that in the present inflationary conditions it should not be left uncovered.

35. The problem before me is not merely that of raising the additional revenue to cover this deficit. I have also to consider the adjustments in taxation necessary in the light of the experience of the working of the tax system in the period since the House passed the budget for the current year. Fiscal policy is not an end in itself but has to subserve the ends of national policy and in a transitional period like this it is essential to keep the working of the taxation system under constant review and readjust it in the light of changing circumstances.

Apart from inflation, to which I have referred in detail elsewhere, the most disconcerting element in the economic life of the country today is a deep, underlying fear of the future, of which the stagnation in the capital market is an index. In my view one of the most urgent tasks before a Finance Minister today is to concert measures designed to remove this fear and to secure a revival of confidence. It is clear from recent experience that the formation of capital in this country has been seriously affected, with the result that investments in both Government loans and industry have been falling off. Unless this stagnation is checked and conditions are created in which the incentive to save and to invest is revived, the industrial expansion of the country and the execution of the plans for raising the living standards of the people are bound to be delayed. In formulating the proposals which I shall place before the House, I have kept this requirement prominently in mind.

Reliefs in Taxation

36. I shall first deal with the various measures of relief which I propose to give.

In the field of direct taxation, my first proposal is to abolish the Capital Gains Tax. At the time this tax was introduced it was expected to wield a large revenue, but it synchronised with a period of falling values and the yield from this tax has, in consequence, been small. Its psychological effect on investment has, however, been markedly adverse and it has had the effect of hampering the free movement of stocks and shares, without which it is hardly possible to maintain a high level of industrial development. In present circumstances, I consider the retention of this tax ill-advised. The loss of revenue is estimated at Rs. 1 crore.

My second proposal relates to income-tax. Here I propose to give some relief to income-tax payers in the lowest and medium income groups. The tax on incomes upto Rs. 10,000 a year will be reduced by a quarter of an anna from one anna to nine pies in the first slab and from two annas to one anna nine pies in the second slab. This class has been severely hit by the rise in prices and a certain degree of relief in their case is justified. The loss is estimated at Rs. 3 crores.

My third proposal relates to super-tax. Here I propose two reliefs designed to meet the criticism that the existing level of taxation leaves little incentive for saving and investment and that it is illogical to ignore the differentiation between earned and unearned income above Rs. 1½ lakhs. In respect of earned income I propose a reduction of an anna and a half in the rates charged on incomes above Rs. 1½ lakhs, leaving the maximum rate of tax for income-tax and super-tax together at 14 annas. For unearned income, I propose a reduction of 6 pies in the maximum rate of super-tax. The cost of the two concessions will be Rs. 2·1 crores.

Of the total loss of Rs. 6·1 crores involved in these concessions, Rs. 3 crores will fall on the Provinces by reducing the divisible pool of income-tax and the balance on the Centre.

37. Before I leave the subject of direct taxation I would like to mention two changes which I propose to make. The House will remember that in the budget for the current year my predecessor gave a concession to companies with an income of Rs. 25,000 and below by reducing their income-tax to half the usual rates. This concession was meant to encourage the growth of smaller companies but the reduction, which was allowed in income-tax, has given rise to considerable administrative difficulties, wholly out of proportion to the amount involved or the benefit accruing to the companies. I have carefully reviewed the position and come to the conclusion that while the concession should be continued it should take the form of a rebate of half the Corporation Tax, and should be limited further to public-controlled small companies which are not branches or subsidiaries of bigger companies. The result of this change will be that the entire cost of the concession will fall upon the Centre, and the Provinces will not have to share it. The amount involved is likely to be small and I have therefore made no specific provision on this account in the estimates for next year. The second change relates to the taxation of incomes of privately-controlled companies which do not declare their dividends in India. It may be recalled that there was a serious anomaly in the administration of income-tax law relating to the recovery of super-tax from shareholders, in respect of the dividends paid out of Indian profits, by companies incorporated outside this country. It was difficult to obtain from these companies information concerning the names of their shareholders and the amount of dividends paid out of Indian profits and consequently there was a considerable loss of revenue. The problem of plugging this leakage was consi-

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dered last year and my predecessor introduced a scheme whereby an extra tax of one anna was imposed on all such companies with a view partially to recouping this loss. As part of the scheme, an amendment was made to the Income-tax Act so as to confer personal immunity from further taxation upon the share-holders of such companies. The amendment, however, had the effect of conferring immunity from super-tax not merely upon the dividends actually received, but also upon the dividends which under the operation of section 23-A of the Income-tax Act could be deemed to have been received from privately-controlled companies. Therefore, if the matter had been left there, the profits of these companies would have escaped with an overall impost much lighter than that to which they were subject under the previous law. This point was met by applying to this category of companies the rates of income-tax and super-tax prescribed for individuals or associations and the definition of "company" was altered to permit of this being done by executive action. The arrangement, however, has not been satisfactory, and after a careful review of the matter I have decided that instead of attempting to tax each such privately-controlled company as an individual, the principle of applying an average rate should be adopted. I accordingly propose that all corporations, whether Indian or non-Indian, should continue to be treated as companies but a further super-tax of one anna should be paid by those privately-controlled companies that do not distribute their profits in India. I propose to apply this method commencing with the current year. It will not involve any change in the revenue estimates.

38. There is one aspect of the complaint about the high taxation in relation to industry to which I would like to make a passing reference. Owing to the steep rise in the level of prices of raw materials, wages and working costs, large amounts of working capital are needed to maintain production. Replacement costs are also higher, and there have been complaints that the calculation of depreciation allowance for purposes of taxation on the original cost of the asset involves great hardship. It has been suggested that industries should be allowed to revalue their existing fixed assets at the present day prices so that future depreciation allowance may be given on the basis of the revaluation. The Government of India considered this problem in all its aspects last October and came to the conclusion that while the difficulty complained of was real the solution proposed was not practicable. It would give no assistance to those who have immediately to replace their worn-out assets and there was no point in giving a concession to others who, at some future date, may not be required to pay the high prices now prevailing. It was, however, realised that some relief should be given to those who were prepared to renew and re-equip their capital assets immediately, in spite of the prevailing high costs. It was decided that for all new plant and machinery installed during the five years from the 1st April 1948, depreciation allowance at double the ordinary rate will be allowed. It has also been decided that if by 1st April 1953 there is a drop in the general level of prices, the difference between the writen down value of the assets and the corresponding value at the reduced price will be allowed as an additional depreciation allowance. For existing plant and machienry, it has been decided to grant extra depreciation allowance for increased wear and tear if triple shifts are worked. I trust that these concessions will go a long way in meeting the complaints of industry in this matter. In addition, the concession given last year of a reduced rate of income-tax to companies which do not distribute a part of their profits as dividends, and the recent limitation, for a temporary period, of the amount that may be distributed as dividends will also enable industrial concerns to accumulate reserves for meeting the increased cost of replacement.

39. I now turn to the reliefs in indirect taxation.

The House will remember that in the budget for the current year an export duty was levied on oil seeds and vegetable oils. This was justified at the time by the wide disparity between the internal prices of these commodities and their export prices and it was then felt that the levy of this duty will not affect our export market. The effect of this duty has since been carefully reviewed and it is now clear that its continuance hampers the maintenance of our exports, particularly to the dollar countries, where we have to meet severe competition. In the interests of the export trade I propose to withdraw this duty altogether. The loss in revenue is estimated at Rs. 1·5 crores.

As a measure of assistance to civil aviation and to foster the development of flying clubs and the training of Indian pilots, it is proposed to give a rebate of half the duty on aviation spirit used by air companies, flying clubs and others. This concession is estimated to cost Rs. 40 lakhs.

Honourable Members are aware that it has been the policy of Government to give relief in respect of customs duty on raw materials imported for industry. In pursuance of this policy it is proposed to give relief next year in the case of a number of imported articles, the total cost of such remissions being estimated at Rs. 35 lakhs.

40. The net effect of all the reliefs mentioned so far is a reduction in revenue of Rs. 5·35 crores, raising the prospective deficit to Rs. 20·14 crores.

New and Additional Taxes

41 Before I deal with proposals for new taxation I would mention certain changes proposed in the postal rates. With the rapid development of a net work of air services over the whole country, it has been decided to utilise this facility for accelerating the delivery of mails and transmit all first class mails, namely, letter and post cards as far as possible by air. The existing surcharge on air mails will accordingly be abolished and as all mails will hereafter be carried over as much of the distance as possible by air, it is proposed to revise the existing rates for letters and post cards. The rate for letters will be raised from 1½ annas to 2 annas for the first tola or fraction thereof the rate for each subsequent tola or fraction thereof remaining unchanged at 1 anna. For post cards the present charge of six pies will be raised to nine pies, the rate which was in force prior to the 1st July 1946. The net additional revenue from the revision of these rates and the abolition of the surcharge on air mails is estimated at Rs. 2·84 crores.

42. I now come to the problem of covering the remaining deficit of Rs. 17·3 crores. It is obvious that at the present level of taxation there is now no scope for raising additional revenue by an increase of direct taxes. As regards customs duties, the level of our import duties is, in my opinion, so high that no substantial increase in revenue is likely to result from enhancing them. The levy of export duties has to be carefully regulated with reference, not so much to our revenue needs as to be the need for maintaining and developing the country's export trade which earns the foreign exchange necessary for financing essential imports. While some adjustments may be found possible in respect of import duties and export duties could be utilised to some extent, we can no longer rely on customs duties for raising substantial additional revenue and we shall have to depend increasingly on developing excise duties.

48 I shall first deal with customs duties. I propose to retain on the tariff next year the changes made by ordinance in November last as part of the campaign against inflation and complete the process of raising the duties on

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luxury items, which was then begun, by a number of further changes in the tariff. To this effect I propose to levy a surcharge on liquor equivalent to the basic duty, to raise the surcharge from one-fifth to one-half on fabrics containing silk, artificial silk, woollens and their mixtures and cotton knitted apparel, to double the surcharge on artificial silk yarn and thread, earthenware and china, and to raise the duty on paper (other than newsprint), stationery articles, glass and glassware including sheet and plate glass, cutlery, metal furniture, flashlights, photographic appliances and clocks and watches. The additional revenue from all these changes is estimated at Rs. 2·4 crores.

I also propose to raise the import duty on motor spirit from 12 annas a gallon to 15 annas a gallon. The excise duty will also be similarly raised. This will bring the duty on motor spirit to the level of 1945-46, when consumption of this article was regulated by more severe austerity standards, and bring in an additional revenue of Rs. 2·55 crores, taking Customs and Central Excise together. I have considered the implications of this course on transport and am satisfied that it will not retard the development of transport or add materially to the cost of road transport.

My next proposal is to raise the import duty on betelnuts from 5 annas a lb. to 7½ annas a lb., with the present preference of 6 pies a lb. for imports from British colonies. This will bring in additional revenue and will also be in the interests of the indigenous grower. The yield is estimated at Rs. 1 crore.

In the sphere of export duties I propose a new duty of 15 per cent. *ad valorem* on exports of cigarettes, cigars and cheroots. I am satisfied that this will not affect the export market for these goods. The estimated yield is Rs. 60 lakhs.

44. I now turn to changes in Central Excise Duties. I have already referred to the increase in the excise duty on motor spirit as complementary to the increase in the import duty. I propose further changes in respect of sugar, tyres for motor vehicles and cotton cloth. I propose to increase the duty on sugar from Rs. 3 per cwt. to Rs. 3.12-0 per cwt. which will yield Rs. 1·5 crores. The duty on tyres used for motor vehicles will be raised from 15 per cent. *ad valorem* to 30 per cent. *ad valorem*, which will bring an additional revenue of Rs. 70 lakhs. As regards cotton cloth, as the House is aware, a duty of 25 per cent. *ad valorem* was levied on superfine cloth with effect from 1st January 1949, as one of the measures against inflation. This duty will be continued next year and in addition, it is proposed to levy a duty of 6¼ per cent. *ad valorem* on fine cloth and a quarter anna per yard on coarse and medium cloth. The duty will be confined to mill-made cloth and will not be applicable to cloth woven on handlooms. The revenue from this additional duty on cotton cloth is estimated at Rs. 9 crores.

45. The excise duty on cloth has a long and bitter history behind it and I must explain to the House my reasons for introducing it. In the first place, the circumstances in which we are levying the duty today are different from those in which it was levied by a foreign Government in the interests of a foreign industry. In the second place, it is necessary to replace the heavy loss in revenue resulting from the abolition of the salt duty by developing some other equally stable source of revenue. Cloth, with a large internal production and as an article of universal consumption, offers itself as the most obvious choice for a tax on consumption. Thirdly, in the present conditions, as the price of imported cloth remains high and the import duties there-

have been enhanced considerably, the proposed excise duty is not likely to affect the indigenous industry. I would also mention that this duty is likely to assist the handloom industry. During the war years when there was no control on handloom cloth and supplies for civilian use were restricted the handloom industry had an assured market for its products. With the Indian mills steadily expanding their production and imports from overseas also tending to increase, the advantages which the handloom industry had during the war years will gradually disappear. The excise duty now proposed, which adds slightly to the cost of the mill product, will, in some measure, help the handloom industry to retain its market. From the point of view of the consumer the incidence of this duty, particularly on the middle and lower middle classes using coarse and medium cloth, will be negligible and in view of the substantial revenue that is expected from it I trust the House will accord its approval to it.

46. While on the subject of Central excises, I may mention the question of rationalising the duty on matches, which I have had under consideration for some time. The ideal arrangement will be to have one standard size of matches but owing to practical difficulties in production it is not possible to achieve this. I have therefore decided that two sizes, namely, 40s and 60s should continue in production and I have made some slight readjustment in the rate of duty. Factories whose annual output is less than 5 lakhs gross boxes will now benefit by the levy of a somewhat lower rate of duty. Necessary amendments to the tariff will be made through the Finance Bill but this will not involve any change in the revenue estimates. With the provision of the two sizes I hope that the retail prices will not exceed 6 pies and 9 pies per box and that the consumer will get the benefit of the partial standardisation without any loss of revenue to the exchequer.

Net result of proposals

47. I may now summarise the net effect of all the proposals that I have placed before the House. The various measures of relief which I have suggested in direct taxes will result in a loss of revenue of Rs. 8·1 crores; the abolition of the export duty on oil seeds and vegetable oils will involve a loss of Rs. 1·5 crores; and the rebate of duty on aviation spirit and industrial raw materials will cost a further sum of Rs. 75 lakhs. As I have already stated, this will bring the total loss of revenue to Rs. 5·85 crores, raising the prospective deficit from Rs. 14·79 crores to Rs. 20·14 crores. The increases in customs duties and, the new export duty on cigarettes and cigars will yield Rs. 0·28 crores the net increase in Postal rates Rs. 2·84 crores, and the increases in Central Excise Duties Rs. 11·52 crores. The final effect of these proposals is to convert the prospective deficit into a small surplus of Rs. 45 lakhs.

Conclusion

48. Sir, I have come to the end of my story. It is not pleasant for a Finance Minister to appear before the House with a record of deficits and proposals for additional taxation but a Finance Minister is as much the creature of circumstances as any one else. Part of the heavy expenditure which Government have now to meet is due to extraordinary circumstances and but for these special demands, the budget would have shown a substantial surplus. As I have mentioned earlier, the present economic conditions in the country make it an imperative necessity to balance the budget. In laying fresh burdens of taxation the House will accept my assurance that I have done my best to secure that they are equitable and that no section of the community is made to pay more than its fair share.

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49. On a survey of world conditions today, I feel that we have good reason for taking a hopeful view of our financial position. We are not alone in having to fight scarcities and inflation. These problems confront most countries in the post-war world. We can, however, take comfort from the fact that, unlike some other countries, our financial position is intrinsically sound. We have only a moderate public debt in relation to our national income and we have considerable external reserves with practically no external debt. We have weathered the storm and stress of the partition and its terrible aftermath. In spite of the heavy demands on our resources for the relief and rehabilitation of refugees, the import of food on an unprecedented scale from overseas and the defence of Kashmir against aggression, we are in a position to balance our budget, without sacrificing any of our essential schemes of development. We have made some headway in the fight against inflation. The curve of production is slowly rising and we have plans in hand for increasing the food production of the country. I do not wish in any way to minimise our difficulties or suggest that we can take a complacent view of the situation. A balanced national budget may, and often does, cover a multitude of ill-balanced family budgets. In this respect, we have still a formidable task ahead of us, the task of fighting want, sickness and poverty and raising the living standards of the millions to whom the emancipation of the country will be a mockery unless it is translated in terms of opportunities for a fuller, freer and better life. This task is not beyond our resources but it requires the co-operation of all classes and sections of the community in a spirit of partnership in a high adventure. I have no doubt that this co-operation will be forthcoming and I pray that my stewardship of the finances of the country may contribute in some degree to the accomplishment of this task.

6-30 P.M.

SUMMARY OF FINAL ESTIMATES

Revenue

	(In lakhs of Rs.) Revised 1948-49	Budget 1949-50
Customs	117,25	107.25 +3,98*
Central Excise Duties	50,25	57,75 +11,52*
Corporation Tax	57,25	41,81
Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax	100,75	113,19 —6,10*
Opium	1,08	1,19
Interest	1,42	1,19
Civil Administration	7,05	6,78
Currency and Mint	13,05	9,70
Civil Works	1,02	1,02
Pre-partition Receipts	13,40	..
Other Sources of Revenue	6,52	5,87
Posts and Telegraphs—		
Net Contribution	3,73	1,62 +2,34*
Railways—		
Net Contribution	7,34	4,72
Deduct—Share of Income-Tax revenue payable to Provinces	—41,79	—43,85 +3,00*
TOTAL REVENUE	338,32	322,98

*Budget Proposals.

Expenditure

(In lakhs of Rs.)

	Revised	Budget
Direct demands on revenue	9,88	10,06
Irrigation	8	12
Debt Services	39,91	39,20
Civil Administration	38,35	40,50
Currency and Mint	2,76	2,23
Civil Works	8,15	7,32
Pensions	2,68	2,68
Miscellaneous—		
Expenditure on refugees	19,45	9,85
Subsidy on foodgrains	31,96	32,97
Other expenditure	5,30	5,12
Grants to Provinces, etc.	2,96	2,96
Extraordinary Items	2,21	2,06
Defence Services (net)	155.43	157,37
Pre-partition Payments	20.75	10,00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	339,87	322,53
DEFICIT	—1,55	SURPLUS +45

Mr. Chairman: The Budget papers will now be distributed before the Honourable the Finance Minister moves the next motion standing in his name. One of the papers now distributed is the Report of the Income-Tax Investigation Commission. This has been marked confidential and not meant for publication. Any breach of the obligation by the members of the Press will be regarded as a breach of the privileges of the House.

INDIAN FINANCE BILL, 1949

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister of Finance): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the first day of April, 1949.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the first day of April, 1949."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I introduce the Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday the 1st March, 1949.